

Perry Bodin

The
Coming Crisis

by **F. M. Wilcox**

THE COMING CRISIS

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A Brief Review of Several Bible Prophecies Culminating in
the Last-Day Crisis; Also a Compilation of Significant
Statements From the Writings of Mrs. E. G. White
Relative to This Crisis. All Quotations Not
Otherwise Credited Are Taken From
Her Books and Articles

By

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THE CRISIS HOUR

A CRISIS awaits the world. And the crisis hour is fast approaching. The prophetic word indicates that we have reached the closing days of earth's history. Specific signs show that the coming of the Lord is near. Preparations for war, diplomatic efforts for peace; the increase of crime and the weakness of human government in coping with the situation; earthquake, famine, pestilence; the growing conflict between capital and labor; the state of society, with its lowered standards like unto the days of Noah and Lot; the forgetting of God and the rejection of His word in the indulgence of every sinful propensity in the wild vortex of worldliness, passion, and pleasure; apostate Protestantism or the loss of spiritual power in the great formal Christian church, and its return in spirit to the practices of Romanism; its persistent and successful efforts to secure by legal enactment the enforcement of its decrees, which would bring persecution upon the remnant of God's people; the restoration of papal power, the marvelous working of Satan in deceiving the nations of men, the warning of Heaven against these individual and national sins,—these and other conditions which might be mentioned, fulfill the word of prophecy as signs of the crisis hour which ushers in the close of human history.

"Men's hearts," in the words of Christ, are "failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth." This state of mind is well expressed by a statesman of Europe:

"The whole world atmosphere at the present time is filled with vague forebodings of an advancing catastrophe. He who does not realize this, he who attempts to deny it, either lives in a fool's paradise, or lacks the ability to read the march of events."

In a similar vein another prominent statesman aptly describes the world's situation in the following words:

"A hurricane has swept its surface; wild torrents have broken loose; the ships have been compelled to try partly in vain to reach

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"The whole world atmosphere at the present time is filled with vague forebodings of an advancing catastrophe. He who does not realize this, he who attempts to deny it, either lives in a fool's paradise, or lacks the ability to read the march of events."

In a similar vein another prominent statesman aptly describes the world's situation in the following words:

"A hurricane has swept its surface; wild torrents have broken loose; the ships have been compelled to try partly in vain to reach

a port of safety; the dikes have been swept away in several places, the wild floods are inundating the country. With great apprehension we ask ourselves when and where we are going to stop these wild floods, and how it will be possible to bring these uncontrolled waters back into their normal bed."

To this we may add the words of Sir Philip Gibbs, in his book, "Ways of Escape:"

"We are all inclined to feel as though mysterious and malignant forces, over which the human mind has no control, were bearing down upon the nations."

The times before us will prove a crisis hour for the church of Christ as well as for the world. This hour is termed by Jeremiah the prophet the time of Jacob's trouble:

"Thus saith the Lord: We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. . . . All faces are turned into paleness. Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it." Jer. 30:5-7.

This crisis will come as a final test to the church. God will sift His people. "Lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations, like as corn is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth." Amos 9:9.

It is with the crisis hour for the church that we are particularly concerned, that the church may prepare to stand in that time, and that it may prove Christ's messenger of peace and pardon to a world who know not God. To His church for this time the Lord gives the following solemn admonition:

"Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired; before the decree bring forth, before the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the Lord come upon you, before the day of the Lord's anger come upon you. Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought His judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord's anger." Zeph. 2:1-3.

To the ministers of Christ, His watchmen upon Zion's walls, God's prophet makes the following urgent appeal:

"Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet. Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare Thy people, O Lord, and give not Thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?" Joel 2:15-17.

It is indeed "time to seek the Lord until He come and rain righteousness upon you."

Interest of the Universe

"The whole universe is looking with inexpressible interest to see the closing work of the great controversy between Christ and Satan." —*"Testimonies," Vol. V, p. 526.*

Crisis Fast Approaching

"The crisis is fast approaching. The rapidly swelling figures show that the time for God's visitation has about come. Although loath to punish, nevertheless He will punish, and that speedily. Those who walk in the light will see signs of the approaching peril; but they are not to sit in quiet, unconcerned expectancy of the ruin, comforting themselves with the belief that God will shelter His people in the day of visitation. Far from it. They should realize that it is their duty to labor diligently to save others, looking with strong faith to God for help. 'The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.'" —*Id., p. 209.*

Crisis in Church and World

"A great crisis awaits the people of God. A crisis awaits the world. The most momentous struggle of all the ages is just before us. Events which for more than forty years we have, upon the authority of the prophetic word, declared to be impending, are now taking place before our eyes. Already the question of an amendment to the Constitution restricting liberty of conscience, has been urged upon the legislators of the nation. The question of enforcing Sunday observance has become one of national interest and importance. We well know what the result of this movement will be. But are we

ready for the issue? Have we faithfully discharged the duty which God has committed to us, of giving the people warning of the danger before them?"—*Id.*, p. 711.

Millions Making Their Decision

"The day of the Lord is approaching with stealthy tread; but the supposed great and wise men know not the signs of Christ's coming or of the end of the world. Iniquity abounds, and the love of many has waxed cold.

"There are thousands upon thousands, millions upon millions, who are now making their decision for eternal life or eternal death. The man who is wholly absorbed in his countingroom, the man who finds pleasure at the gaming table, the man who loves to indulge perverted appetite, the amusement lover, the frequenters of the theater and the ballroom, put eternity out of their reckoning. The whole burden of their life is, What shall we eat? what shall we drink? and wherewithal shall we be clothed? They are not in the procession that is moving heavenward. They are led by the great apostate, and with him will be destroyed."—*Id.*, Vol. VI, pp. 406, 407.

Grievous Trouble Among Nations

"Soon grievous troubles will arise among the nations—trouble that will not cease until Jesus comes. As never before we need to press together, serving Him who has prepared His throne in the heavens, and whose kingdom ruleth over all. God has not forsaken His people, and our strength lies in not forsaking Him.

"The judgments of God are in the land. The wars and rumors of wars, the destruction by fire and flood, say clearly that the time of trouble, which is to increase until the end, is very near at hand. We have no time to lose. The world is stirred with the spirit of war. The prophecies of the eleventh of Daniel have almost reached their final fulfillment."—*Review and Herald*, Nov. 24, 1904.

Final Movements Rapid Ones

"The calamities by land and sea, the unsettled state of society, the alarms of war, are portentous. They forecast approaching events of the greatest magnitude. The agencies of evil are combining their forces, and consolidating. They are strengthening for the last great crisis. Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones."—"Testimonies," Vol. IX, p. 11.

Keeps Account With Nations

"With unerring accuracy, the Infinite One still keeps an account with all nations. While His mercy is tendered, with calls to repent-

ance, this account will remain open; but when the figures reach a certain amount which God has fixed, the ministry of His wrath commences. The account is closed. Divine patience ceases. There is no more pleading of mercy in their behalf."—*Id.*, Vol. V, p. 208.

Crisis Stealing Gradually

"Everything in the world is in agitation. The signs of the times are ominous. Coming events cast their shadows before. The Spirit of God is withdrawing from the earth, and calamity follows calamity by sea and by land. There are tempests, earthquakes, fires, floods, murders of every grade. Who can read the future? Where is security? There is assurance in nothing that is human or earthly. Rapidly are men ranging themselves under the banner they have chosen. Restlessly are they waiting and watching the movements of their leaders. There are those who are waiting and watching and working for our Lord's appearing. Another class are falling into line under the generalship of the first great apostate. Few believe with heart and soul that we have a hell to shun and a heaven to win.

"The crisis is stealing gradually upon us. The sun shines in the heavens, passing over its usual round, and the heavens still declare the glory of God. Men are still eating and drinking, planting and building, marrying and giving in marriage. Merchants are still buying and selling. Men are jostling one against another, contending for the highest place. Pleasure lovers are still crowding to theaters, horse races, gambling hells. The highest excitement prevails, yet probation's hour is fast closing, and every case is about to be eternally decided. Satan sees that his time is short. He has set all his agencies at work that men may be deceived, deluded, occupied, and entranced, until the day of probation shall be ended, and the door of mercy be forever shut."—"The Desire of Ages," pp. 635, 636.

APOSTATE PROTESTANTISM

APOSTASY from God, characterized by departure from the teachings of His word, will mark the experience of the great Protestant church in the last great crisis. Under the symbolic name of Babylon, the church in this fallen state is pointed out in prophecy. (See Rev. 14:8 and chapter 17.) This designation is used primarily of the Roman Catholic Church, but includes also all other churches and religious orders which follow the practices of the Roman Church. The tendency for some of the so-called Protestant churches to walk in the footsteps of the Catholic Church, is particularly marked at the present time.

The Reformation of the sixteenth century was in the order of God. It was a protest against errors of doctrine and abuses of ecclesiastical power which had plunged the church of Christ into a well-nigh hopeless state of apostasy. Rejecting tradition and recognizing the Bible alone as of supreme authority in all questions of faith and morals, the Reformers erected a formidable barrier against papal tradition and superstition, presenting to the church a sure foundation of doctrinal belief and religious faith. To the extent that the children of the Reformation have consistently adhered to the principle of the Bible, and the Bible only, as of ultimate authority in matters of faith and of Christian duty, they have been blessed of God and have been preserved from falling back into papal error.

But, unfortunately, we are witnessing today a marked tendency to depart from the standards erected by the Reformers. Doctrines once counted cardinal in Christian faith are discredited and oftentimes ridiculed by thousands of professed Christians. The inerrancy of the Scriptures is denied. The deity of Christ, His divine miracles, His vicarious death, His resurrection and ascension, are counted as mythical tales. Belief in the creation of man as given in the Bible, has been set aside for the seductive theory of evolution. And the saddest feature of this wide departure from old-time

standards is found in the fact that the leaders in this apostasy are recognized teachers of Christian doctrine! Infidelity masquerades under the guise of clerical orders, and is found more often in the pulpit than in the pew. Surely Christ is wounded in the house of His friends.

But, thank God, there may still be found in every church body the loyal and true, men and women who view with sadness the blindness which is overspreading the church, and who are longing and praying for a revival of apostolic faith.

We might well be confused and utterly appalled at the situation confronting us, had not the Scriptures definitely pointed out that great apostasy would characterize the church in the closing days of earth's history. Apostate Protestantism will return in spirit to the fold of Rome, and joining affinity with the system she once opposed, will unite, if not organically, at least practically, in opposition to the truth of the Word and in persecuting dissenters from her churchly creed. The evidence of this will appear as we proceed. The God who is able to foretell the dangers which would befall the church, is also able to care for His truth and for His children in the coming crisis.

Opening the Door for the Papacy

"In the movements now in progress in the United States to secure for the institutions and usages of the church the support of the state, Protestants are following in the steps of papists. Nay, more, they are opening the door for the Papacy to regain in Protestant America the supremacy which she has lost in the Old World."—*"The Great Controversy,"* p. 573.

Protestantism Gives Countenance to Popery

"The people of the United States have been a favored people; but when they restrict religious liberty, surrender Protestantism, and give countenance to popery, the measure of their guilt will be full, and 'national apostasy' will be registered in the books of heaven. The result of this apostasy will be national ruin."—*Review and Herald, May 2, 1893.*

Protestantism Gives the Hand of Fellowship to Rome

"There is one pointed out in prophecy as the man of sin. He is the representative of Satan. . . . Here is Satan's right-hand man

ready to carry on the work that Satan commenced in heaven, that of trying to amend the law of God. And the Christian world has sanctioned his efforts by adopting this child of the Papacy,—the Sunday institution. They have nourished it and will continue to nourish it, until Protestantism shall give the hand of fellowship to the Roman power. Then there will be a law against the Sabbath of God's creation, and then it is that God 'will do a strange work in the earth.' . . .

"God keeps a record with the nations; the figures are swelling against them in the books of heaven; and when it shall have become a law that the transgression of the first day of the week shall be met with punishment, then their cup will be full."—*Review and Herald*, March 9, 1886.

Roman Catholic Principles Protected by State

"The world has converted the church. Both are in harmony, and are acting on a shortsighted policy. Protestants will work upon the rulers of the land to make laws to restore the lost ascendancy of the man of sin, who sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Roman Catholic principles will be taken under the care and protection of the state. This national apostasy will speedily be followed by national ruin. . . . The Protestant governments will reach a strange pass. They will be converted to the world. They will also, in their separation from God, work to make falsehood and apostasy from God the law of the nation."—*Review and Herald*, June 15, 1897.

Our Land in Jeopardy

"Our land is in jeopardy. The time is drawing on when its legislators shall so abjure the principles of Protestantism as to give countenance to the Romish apostasy. The people for whom God has so marvelously wrought, strengthening them to throw off the galling yoke of popery, will by a national act give vigor to the corrupt faith of Rome, and thus arouse the tyranny which only waits for a touch to start again into cruelty and despotism.

"With rapid steps are we already approaching this period. When Protestant churches shall seek the support of the secular power, thus following the example of that apostate church, for opposing which their ancestors endured the fiercest persecution, then will there be a national apostasy which will end only in national ruin."—"The Spirit of Prophecy," Vol. IV, p. 410.

Giving Support to Romanism

"When the nation for which God has worked in such a marvelous manner, and over which He has spread the shield of Omnipotence,

abandons Protestant principles, and through its legislature gives countenance and support to Romanism in limiting religious liberty, then God will work in His power for His people that are true. The tyranny of Rome will be exercised, but Christ is our refuge.”—*“Testimonies to Ministers,”* p. 206.

Bridging the Gulf

“By the decree enforcing the institution of the Papacy in violation of the law of God, our nation will disconnect herself fully from righteousness. When Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power, when she shall reach over the abyss to clasp hands with Spiritualism, when, under the influence of this threefold union, our country shall repudiate every principle of its Constitution as a Protestant and republican government, and shall make provision for the propagation of papal falsehoods and delusions, then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan, and that the end is near.”—*“Testimonies,”* Vol. V, p. 451.

Protestantism Grasps Hands of Romanism and Spiritualism

“Through the two great errors, the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness, Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former lays the foundation of Spiritualism, the latter creates a bond of sympathy with Rome. The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hand of Spiritualism; they will reach over the abyss to clasp hands with the Roman power; and under the influence of this threefold union, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience.”—*“The Great Controversy,”* p. 588.

Roman Horrors of the Dark Ages

“Through fraud and falsehood Satan is now using those who claim to be Christians to divorce the world from God’s mercy. They are working in blindness. They do not see that if a Protestant government sacrifices the principles that have made them a free, independent nation, and through legislation brings into the Constitution, principles that will propagate papal falsehood and papal delusion, they are plunging into the Roman horrors of the Dark Ages.”—*Review and Herald Extra*, Dec. 11, 1888.

RESTORATION OF THE PAPACY

IN the shaping of the influences and principles which will eventuate in the coming crisis, the papal power of Rome will prove a dominant factor. The Papacy was a religio-political combination—a church enforcing its mandates through the civil power of the state. In prophecy this great system is symbolized by the little horn of Daniel 7, by the leopard beast of Revelation 13, and by the woman seated upon the scarlet-colored beast of Revelation 17. This power was to speak great words against the Most High, wear out the saints of the Most High, and continue this work for a time, times, and half a time. Dan. 7:25. This period is equivalent to one thousand two hundred and threescore days (Rev. 12:6, 14), or forty-two months (Rev. 13:6), or 1260 literal years. This period of time extends from the year 538, when the pope of Rome, by authority of Justinian the emperor, was made head over all the churches and corrector of heretics, to 1798, when Pope Pius VI was taken prisoner, and much of the prestige of the papal hierarchy was destroyed.

This gave to the Papacy a deadly wound, as foretold in Revelation 13:3. The loss of the papal states in 1870 deepened this wound; but of recent years there has come a revival of papal influence in world affairs. This was brought to an unexpected climax in 1929 when by the concordat between the papal see and Italy, the pope was enabled to resume his status as a temporal prince, as head of the Vatican State. This gives the Papacy once more a place among the kings of earth.

This restoration of papal power is likewise a subject of prophecy. In the seventeenth chapter of Revelation it is declared that the ten horns of the scarlet-colored beast, upon which the woman representing the Papacy sits, shall "have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast." Verse 13. Then will the papal hierarchy, in the words of the scripture, declare: "I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow." Rev. 18:7. This is but the prelude of her judgment, when she shall be called to an ac-

count for her crimes against High Heaven, the unholy warfare she has waged against the saints of God through all the centuries. "Therefore," says the Divine Record, "shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her." Verse 8.

In the Roman Church today, as through all the centuries, there are many devoted Christians who are serving God to the best of their knowledge. They are Christians, not because of the false doctrines of Rome or the evil systems with which they are connected, but in spite of that system. Before the final judgment hour, while yet the day of probation lingers, God issues this call to His children: "Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." Verse 4. That call is now going to the world, and, thank God, in every land and clime His people in large numbers are responding to His gracious invitation.

Fires of Persecution Rekindled

"Many will plead that there is no prospect that popery will ever be revived. If it shall regain its lost ascendancy, it will be by Protestantism's giving it the right hand of fellowship. If it shall be legislated into power by the concessions of timeserving men, the fires of persecution will be rekindled against those who will not sacrifice conscience and the truth for the errors of the Papacy. Only let the minds of the Christian world be turned away from God; let His law be dishonored and His holy day trampled upon, and they will be ready to take any step where Satan may lead the way." — *Review and Herald*, Jan. 1, 1889.

Romanism in Greater Favor

"Romanism is now regarded by Protestants with far greater favor than in former years. In those countries where Catholicism is not in the ascendancy, and the papists are taking a conciliatory course in order to gain influence, there is an increasing indifference concerning the doctrines that separate the reformed churches from the papal hierarchy; the opinion is gaining ground, that, after all, we do not differ so widely upon vital points as has been supposed, and that a little concession on our part will bring us into a better understanding with Rome. The time was when Protestants placed a high value upon the liberty of conscience which had been so dearly

purchased. They taught their children to abhor popery, and held that to seek harmony with Rome would be disloyalty to God. But how widely different are the sentiments now expressed."—*"The Great Controversy,"* p. 563.

Rome Never Changes

"This [Romanism] is the religion which Protestants are beginning to look upon with so much favor, and which will eventually be united with Protestantism. This union will not, however, be effected by a change in Catholicism; for Rome never changes. She claims infallibility. It is Protestantism that will change. The adoption of liberal ideas on its part will bring it where it can clasp the hand of Catholicism. 'The Bible, the Bible, is the foundation of our faith,' was the cry of Protestants in Luther's time, while the Catholics cried, 'The Fathers, custom, tradition.'"—*Review and Herald, June 1, 1886.*

Following in the Steps of Rome

"In the movements now in progress in the United States to secure for the institutions and usages of the church the support of the state, Protestants are following in the steps of papists. Nay, more, they are opening the door for the Papacy to regain in Protestant America the supremacy which she has lost in the Old World. And that which gives greater significance to this movement is the fact that the principal object contemplated is the enforcement of Sunday observance,—a custom which originated with Rome, and which she claims as the sign of her authority. It is the spirit of the Papacy—the spirit of conformity to worldly customs, the veneration for human traditions above the commandments of God—that is permeating the Protestant churches, and leading them on to do the same work of Sunday exaltation which the Papacy has done before them."—*"The Great Controversy,"* p. 573.

Thousands Swept Into This Deception

"None are proof against her [Rome's] influence but those who have planted their feet firmly upon the foundation of truth, and whose hearts are renewed by the Spirit of God. Thousands who have not an experimental knowledge of Christ will be swept into this deception."—*"The Spirit of Prophecy,"* Vol. IV, p. 383.

The Deadly Wound Healed

"But in this homage to Papacy the United States will not be alone. The influence of Rome in the countries that once acknowledged her dominion, is still far from being destroyed. And prophecy foretells a restoration of her power. 'I saw one of his heads as it were

wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.' Rev. 13:3. The infliction of the deadly wound points to the downfall of the Papacy in 1798. After this, says the prophet, 'His deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.' Paul states plainly that the man of sin will continue until the second advent. 2 Thess. 2:8. To the very close of time he will carry forward his work of deception. And the revelator declares, also referring to the Papacy, 'All that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life.' Rev. 13:8. In both the Old and the New World, the Papacy will receive homage in the honor paid to the Sunday institution, that rests solely upon the authority of the Roman Church.

"For more than half a century, students of prophecy in the United States have presented this testimony to the world. In the events now taking place is seen a rapid advance toward the fulfillment of the prediction."—*"The Great Controversy,"* p. 579.

THE PAPAL IMAGE AND MARK

IN the closing days of earth's history the wound of the papal symbol will be healed, the power of the Papacy will be restored. Apostate Protestantism will prove a strong contributing factor to this end. And sad to say, Protestant America will lead in this resumption of friendly relations with the very church with which Protestantism took definite issue in the days of the great Reformation.

As shown in the last chapter, the papal power of Rome is symbolized by the little horn of Daniel 7 and by the leopard beast of Revelation 13. This leopard beast was to go into captivity, representing the reverses suffered by the Papacy in the death wound given to its power and prestige in 1798.

At this point in the prophecy and at this date in the world's history, a new power is seen coming up, as represented by the two-horned beast. Verse 11. This power was to come up out of the earth—the new world in contrast with the other powers which came up out of the sea, that is, from among earth's teeming millions. Verse 11. It was to be a government whose lawmaking power would be in the hands of the people. Verse 14. It was to possess two leading characteristics or principles of government, as represented by the two lamblike or Christlike horns. Verse 11.

These specifications unmistakably indicate that this two-horned beast is a symbol of the United States of America. The nation came up out of the earth, or in the New World; it was coming up at the right time, when the papal power went into captivity in 1798; it has a republican form of government; it stands for two great principles as represented by the two horns; namely, civil and religious liberty. Of these principles the Rev. Josiah Strong says:

"It may be easily shown, and is of no small significance, that the two great ideas of which the Anglo-Saxon is the exponent are having a fuller development in the United States than in Great Britain. There the union of church and state tends strongly to paralyze some of the members of the body of Christ. Here there is no such influence to destroy spiritual life and power. Here, also, has been

evolved the form of government consistent with the largest possible civil liberty.”—*“Our Country,”* p. 172.

Sad indeed is it that these glorious principles could not always be maintained. The prophecy indicates a change which should later be introduced. The lamblike beast is to speak as a dragon. Verse 11. The dragon was a symbol of Rome. It spake by oppressive laws persecuting the people of God. Rev. 12:13. Thus the prophecy indicates that there is to arise in the United States a movement which will resort to persecution even as did the Roman power.

And this movement eventually is to make an image to the papal symbol. Verse 14. What was the Papacy?—A church clothed with civil authority; in short, a union of church and state. An image to this system would likewise be a union of church and state, a church, or combination of churches, backed by civil enactment in carrying out its plans and purposes.

The mark of the papal power is likewise to be enforced by law. Verse 16. What is that mark? What does Rome claim as the sign of her authority? We quote from one of her own authoritative works:

“Question.—Have you any other way of proving that the church has power to institute festivals of precept?

“Answer.—Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her,—she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday the first day of the week for the observance of Saturday the seventh day, a change for which there is no Scriptural authority.”—*“A Doctrinal Catechism,”* Rev. Stephen Keenan, p. 174.

This mark of Roman power—the counterfeit of the Sabbath of the Lord—will sometime be enforced, because men have turned from the principles upon which the American government was founded.

Do we see evidence of the fulfillment of this later phase of the prophecy? Are there operating in the United States today influences counterworking the glorious principles of civil and religious liberty? Sad, indeed, that such is the case. In 1863 there was formed an organization having for its object the securing of such an amendment to the American Constitution as should “place all the Christian laws, institu-

tions, and usages of our government on an undeniably legal basis in the fundamental law of the land." This organization is known as the National Reform Association, and for years it has maintained an active lobby in the national capital in furtherance of its aims. And this so-called spirit of reform is actuating many church bodies and organizations, the representatives of which are endeavoring to secure the recognition of God in the Constitution, the enactment of laws prohibiting labor on Sunday, the first day of the week, and other so-called Christian citizenship objectives. Many noble Christian men and women are engaged in this propaganda, but this only makes the movement all the more dangerous.

These untoward and anti-American influences have already become so potent that a number of States have passed laws restricting or prohibiting Sunday labor. And earnest and persistent efforts are made every year to commit the national Congress to this same legislative program. Be it said to the credit of American lawmakers, that thus far these efforts of would-be reformers have proved unavailing, and an overwhelming majority of both houses of Congress has loyally stood against the attempted inroads upon the liberty guaranteed by the Constitution. Loyal statesmen are endeavoring to maintain the Christlike principles represented by the two horns of the lamb.

That the resistance of these noble men will eventually be overcome and oppressive laws be enacted, we are forced to believe from the prophetic forecast.

Oppressive laws will be enacted, and dissenters will suffer persecution even as they did under the papal régime of the past. Many—the great majority—will compromise principle, and sacrifice truth and loyalty for temporal gain and popularity. But in contrast will be found thousands who will prove true to God, and to the noble principles of civil and religious liberty actuating the founding fathers of the Republic.

It remains for each one to determine on which side he will stand in the conflict. Truth or error, Christ or anti-christ—these are the opposing principles. Upon the decision eternal destiny hangs.

An Amendment to the Constitution

"We see that efforts are being made to restrict our religious liberties. The Sunday question is now assuming large proportions. An amendment to our Constitution is being urged in Congress, and when it is obtained, oppression must follow."—*Review and Herald*, Dec. 13, 1888.

Legislators Yield to Popular Demand

"Political corruption is destroying love of justice and regard for truth; and even in free America, rulers and legislators, in order to secure public favor, will yield to the popular demand for a law enforcing Sunday observance."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 592.

True Issue Concealed

"God has revealed what is to take place in the last days, that His people may be prepared to stand against the tempest of opposition and wrath. Those who have been warned of the events before them are not to sit in calm expectation of the coming storm, comforting themselves that the Lord will shelter His faithful ones in the day of trouble. We are to be as men waiting for their Lord, not in idle expectancy, but in earnest work, with unwavering faith. It is no time now to allow our minds to be engrossed with things of minor importance. While men are sleeping, Satan is actively arranging matters so that the Lord's people may not have mercy or justice. The Sunday movement is now making its way in darkness. The leaders are concealing the true issue, and many who unite in the movement do not themselves see whither the undercurrent is tending. Its professions are mild, and apparently Christian; but when it shall speak, it will reveal the spirit of the dragon."—*Testimonies*, Vol. V, p. 452.

Joining Hands With Popery

"Any movement in favor of religious legislation is really an act of concession to the Papacy, which for so many ages has steadily warred against liberty of conscience. Sunday observance owes its existence as a so-called Christian institution to the 'mystery of iniquity;' and its enforcement will be a virtual recognition of the principles which are the very corner stone of Romanism. When our nation shall so abjure the principles of its government as to enact a Sunday law, Protestantism will in this act join hands with popery; it will be nothing else than giving life to the tyranny which has long been eagerly watching its opportunity to spring again into active despotism."—*Id.*, pp. 711, 712.

Influence of the Clergy

"If the people can be led to favor a Sunday law, then the clergy intend to exert their united influence to obtain a religious amendment to the Constitution, and compel the nation to keep Sunday."
—*Review and Herald*, Dec. 24, 1889.

Spirit of Papacy Permeating Protestantism

"The spirit of the Papacy—the spirit of conformity to worldly customs, the veneration for human traditions above the commandments of God—is permeating the Protestant churches, and leading them on to do the same work of Sunday exaltation which the Papacy has done before them. Would the reader understand the agencies to be employed in the soon-coming contest? He has but to trace the record of the means which Rome employed for the same object in ages past."—*"The Spirit of Prophecy," Vol. IV, pp. 390, 391.*

First Beast—Roman Church

"By this first beast is represented the Roman Church, an ecclesiastical body clothed with civil power, having authority to punish all dissenters. The image to the beast represents another religious body clothed with similar power. The formation of this image is the work of that beast whose peaceful rise and mild professions render it so striking a symbol of the United States. Here is to be found an image of the Papacy."—*Id.*, p. 278.

Two Horns—Republicanism and Protestantism

"'And he had two horns like a lamb.' The lamblike horns indicate youth, innocence, and gentleness, fitly representing the character of the United States when presented to the prophet as 'coming up' in 1798. Among the Christian exiles who first fled to America, and sought an asylum from royal oppression and priestly intolerance, were many who determined to establish a government upon the broad foundation of civil and religious liberty. Their views found place in the Declaration of Independence, which sets forth the great truth that 'all men are created equal,' and endowed with the inalienable right to 'life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.' And the Constitution guarantees to the people the right of self-government, providing that representatives elected by the popular vote shall enact and administer the laws. Freedom of religious faith was also granted, every man being permitted to worship God according to the dictates of his conscience. Republicanism and Protestantism became the fundamental principles of the nation. These principles are the secret of its power and prosperity. The oppressed and down-

trodden throughout Christendom have turned to this land with interest and hope. Millions have sought its shores, and the United States has risen to a place among the most powerful nations of the earth."—*"The Great Controversy,"* p. 441.

Image to the Beast

"When the leading churches of the United States, uniting upon such points of doctrine as are held by them in common, shall influence the state to enforce their decrees and to sustain their institutions, then Protestant America will have formed an image of the Roman hierarchy, and the infliction of civil penalties upon dissenters will inevitably result."—*Id.*, p. 445.

Image of the Beast Defined

"'Saying to them that dwell on the earth, that *they* should make an image to the beast.' Here is clearly presented a form of government in which the legislative power rests with the people; a most striking evidence that the United States is the nation denoted in the prophecy.

"But what is the 'image to the beast'? and how is it to be formed? The image is made by the two-horned beast, and is an image *to* the first beast. It is also called an image *of* the beast. Then to learn what the image is like, and how it is to be formed, we must study the characteristics of the beast itself,—the Papacy."—*Id.*, p. 443.

The Voice of the Dragon

"But the stern tracings of the prophetic pencil reveal a change in this peaceful scene. The beast with lamblike horns speaks with the voice of a dragon, and 'exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him.' The spirit of persecution manifested by paganism and the Papacy is again to be revealed. Prophecy declares that this power will say 'to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast.' The image is made to the first or leopardlike beast, which is the one brought to view in the third angel's message."—*"The Spirit of Prophecy,"* Vol. IV, pp. 277, 278.

Many Blinded

"Prophecy represents Protestantism as having lamblike horns, but speaking like a dragon. Already we are beginning to hear the voice of the dragon. There is a satanic force propelling the Sunday movement, but it is concealed. Even the men who are engaged in the work, are themselves blinded to the results which will follow their movement."—*Review and Herald*, Jan. 1, 1889.

A Striking Contradiction

"The lamblike horns and dragon voice of the symbol point to a striking contradiction between the professions and the practice of the nation thus represented. The 'speaking' of the nation is the action of its legislative and judicial authorities. By such action it will give the lie to those liberal and peaceful principles which it has put forth as the foundation of its policy. The prediction that it will speak 'as a dragon,' and exercise 'all the power of the first beast,' plainly foretells a development of the spirit of intolerance and persecution that was manifested by the nations represented by the dragon and the leopardlike beast. And the statement that the beast with two horns 'causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast,' indicates that the authority of this nation is to be exercised in enforcing some observance which shall be an act of homage to the Papacy."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 442.

Battlefield of the Last Conflict

"To secure popularity and patronage, legislators will yield to the demand for a Sunday law. Those who fear God cannot accept an institution that violates a precept of the decalogue. On this battlefield comes the last great conflict of the controversy between truth and error, and we are not left in doubt as to the issue. Now as in the days of Mordecai the Lord will vindicate His truth and His people."—*Testimonies*, Vol. V, p. 451.

Measure of Guilt Full

"It is at the time of the national apostasy, when, acting on the policy of Satan, the rulers of the land will rank themselves on the side of the man of sin—it is then the measure of guilt is full; the national apostasy is the signal for national ruin."—*General Conference Bulletin*, 1891, p. 259.

Device of Satan Perfected

"When the legislature frames laws which exalt the first day of the week, and put it in the place of the seventh day, the device of Satan will be perfected."—*Review and Herald*, April 15, 1890.

Satan Behind Religious Legislation

"Not a move has been made in exalting the idol sabbath, in bringing around Sunday observance through legislation, but Satan has been behind it, and has been the chief worker."—*Ibid.*

Dragon Wroth With the Woman

“‘And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.’ In the near future we shall see these words fulfilled, as the Protestant churches unite with the world and with the papal power against commandment keepers. The same spirit which actuated papists in ages past, will lead Protestants to pursue a similar course toward those who will maintain their loyalty to God.”—*“Testimonies,” Vol. V, p. 449.*

Wealth, Genius, Education, Combine

“The decree which is to go forth against the people of God will be very similar to that issued by Ahasuerus against the Jews in the time of Esther. The Persian edict sprung from the malice of Haman toward Mordecai. Not that Mordecai had done him harm, but he had refused to show him reverence which belongs only to God. . . . The Protestant world today see in the little company keeping the Sabbath a Mordecai in the gate. . . .

“The same masterful mind that plotted against the faithful in ages past is still seeking to rid the earth of those who fear God and obey His law. Satan will excite indignation against the humble minority who conscientiously refuse to accept popular customs and traditions. Men of position and reputation will join with the lawless and the vile to take counsel against the people of God. Wealth, genius, education, will combine to cover them with contempt. Persecuting rulers, ministers, and church members will conspire against them. With voice and pen, by boasts, threats, and ridicule, they will seek to overthrow their faith. By false representations and angry appeals, they will stir up the passions of the people. Not having a ‘Thus saith the Scriptures’ to bring against the advocates of the Bible Sabbath, they will resort to oppressive enactments to supply the lack.”—*Id., pp. 450, 451.*

Liquor and Sunday Laws

“Behold the well-nigh universal disregard of the Sabbath commandment. Behold also the daring impiety of those who, while enacting laws to safeguard the supposed sanctity of the first day of the week, at the same time are making laws legalizing the liquor traffic. Wise above that which is written, they attempt to coerce the consciences of men, while lending their sanction to an evil that brutalizes and destroys the beings created in the image of God. It is Satan himself who inspires such legislation. He well knows that the curse of God will rest on those who exalt human enactment above

the divine; and he does all in his power to lead men into the broad road that ends in destruction."—"*Prophets and Kings*," p. 186.

Prohibition and Sunday Observance

"As the claims of the fourth commandment are urged upon the people, it is found that the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath is enjoined; and as the only way to free themselves from a duty which they are unwilling to perform, many popular teachers declare that the law of God is no longer binding. Thus they cast away the law and the Sabbath together. As the work of Sabbath reform extends, this rejection of the divine law to avoid the claims of the fourth commandment will become well-nigh universal. The teachings of religious leaders have opened the door to infidelity, to Spiritualism, and to contempt for God's holy law; and upon these leaders rests a fearful responsibility for the iniquity that exists in the Christian world.

"Yet this very class put forth the claim that the fast-spreading corruption is largely attributable to the desecration of the so-called 'Christian sabbath,' and that the enforcement of Sunday observance would greatly improve the morals of society. This claim is especially urged in America, where the doctrine of the true Sabbath has been most widely preached. Here the temperance work, one of the most prominent and important of moral reforms, is often combined with the Sunday movement, and the advocates of the latter represent themselves as laboring to promote the highest interest of society; and those who refuse to unite with them are denounced as the enemies of temperance and reform. But the fact that a movement to establish error is connected with a work which is in itself good, is not an argument in favor of the error. We may disguise poison by mingling it with wholesome food, but we do not change its nature. On the contrary, it is rendered more dangerous, as it is more likely to be taken unawares. It is one of Satan's devices to combine with falsehood just enough truth to give it plausibility. The leaders of the Sunday movement may advocate reforms which the people need, principles which are in harmony with the Bible; yet while there is with these a requirement which is contrary to God's law, His servants cannot unite with them. Nothing can justify them in setting aside the commandments of God for the precepts of men."—"*The Great Controversy*," pp. 587, 588.

The Prophecy of Revelation 13

"The prophecy of Revelation 13 declares that the power represented by the beast with lamblike horns shall cause 'the earth and

them which dwell therein' to worship the Papacy—there symbolized by the beast 'like unto a leopard.' The beast with two horns is also to say 'to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast;' and, furthermore, it is to command all, 'both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond,' to receive 'the mark of the beast.' Rev. 13:11-16. It has been shown that the United States is the power represented by the beast with lamblike horns, and that this prophecy will be fulfilled when the United States shall enforce Sunday observance, which Rome claims as the special acknowledgment of her supremacy."—*Id.*, pp. 578, 579.

National Ruin Follows National Apostasy

"A time is coming when the law of God is, in a special sense, to be made void in our land. The rulers of our nation will, by legislative enactments, enforce the Sunday law, and thus God's people be brought into great peril. When our nation, in its legislative councils, shall enact laws to bind the consciences of men in regard to their religious privileges, enforcing Sunday observance, and bringing oppressive power to bear against those who keep the seventh-day Sabbath, the law of God will, to all intents and purposes, be made void in our land; and national apostasy will be followed by national ruin. . . .

"If, in our land of boasted freedom, a Protestant government should sacrifice every principle which enters into its Constitution, and propagate papal falsehood and delusion, well may we plead, 'It is time for Thee, Lord, to work, for they have made void Thy law.'" —*Review and Herald*, Dec. 18, 1888.

THE CHRISTIAN'S RELATION TO EARTHLY GOVERNMENT

IN the crisis hour which awaits the church there will be witnessed a deadly conflict between the commandments of God and the laws of earthly government. How shall the Christian relate himself to this clash of opposing principles? What relation shall he sustain to his government?

The duty of the Christian toward the government under which he lives is made clear in Holy Writ:

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God." Rom. 13:1, 2.

LIMITS OF THE AUTHORITY OF HUMAN GOVERNMENTS

With what authority has God invested civil government? It is inconceivable that He should have bestowed upon it unlimited power. That would be to make earthly government, to the extent of human capability, equal to the government of God. It would be to place God's work in the earth, His gospel, His church, the affairs of mankind, physically, socially, civilly, and spiritually, under the control of human government without reference to its attitude toward the principles and problems involved. This we cannot believe the great Ruler of the universe would do.

We are therefore forced to the conclusion that the jurisdiction of human government is limited to the sphere of civil relations, to the decision of questions governing the relation of man to his fellow men. There is a sphere—the personal relation of man to his Maker—into which civil government has no God-given or Heaven-ordained right to intrude.

GOD AND CÆSAR

Christ clearly recognized and taught this dividing line separating the authority of civil government from the sphere of spiritual relations. To some who came to Him inquiring

if it was right to pay tribute to Cæsar, or civil government, the Master, after calling attention to the fact that they were recognizing Cæsar's government by using Cæsar's coinage, replied, "Render therefore unto Cæsar the things which are Cæsar's; and unto God the things that are God's." (See Matt. 22:16-21.)

There is a sphere in which Cæsar may operate. In the field of civil relations he may range freely. He should be a terror to evil works, "a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil." In this he is "the minister of God," and should be loyally supported with tribute, the Christian being subject to these civil enactments, "not only for wrath, but also for conscience' sake." Rom. 13:3-6.

The Christian is to "render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor. Owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law." Rom. 13:7, 8. The apostle then proceeds to quote in substance the last five commandments, which define the civil relations of man. He makes no quotation from the first table of the law, because the first four commandments pertain to the relations of man to God, and belong alone to the sphere of God's government and jurisdiction. Into this sphere, as we have said, civil government has no right to enter.

CIVIL, NOT SPIRITUAL JURISDICTION

Nor does it belong to the sphere of civil government to deal with the second table of the law in the spiritual significance of the commandments of that table. This field belongs alone to God. With the civil relation defined in the last six commandments, the civil government may take account. The government has a right to punish the murderer, the adulterer, the thief, not because they have done a moral wrong, but because they have violated the law of civil ethics. The government can deal with overt acts only. God, however, looks beneath the overt act, and takes account of the thoughts of the heart, of the motives and purposes of the life. In His estimate, the man who hates his brother, even if he commits no overt act, is a murderer. 1 John 3:15. The lustful man

likewise violates the commandment, even though outwardly he may not offend against the law of chastity. Matt. 5:28.

LOYALTY TO GOVERNMENT

In an evil hour, either consciously or unconsciously, civil government oversteps the bounds God has set for it, and seeks to regulate or control the personal spiritual relations which exist between man and his Maker. What should be the attitude of the Christian toward his government under these circumstances?

God is supreme, and His requirements are paramount to all others. To Him the Christian owes unswerving allegiance. He cannot surrender this allegiance at the command of any human master. And when the laws of his government require that he should violate the laws of God, he has no alternative, but must obey God rather than men. Above any fear he may have of man, who is able to destroy his body, he is to fear the great God of heaven, who is able to destroy both soul and body. Matt. 10:28.

The attitude of the Christian should always be that of loyalty to his government so long as this does not conflict with his duty to God. How shall he manifest his loyalty when the laws of his government conflict with the requirements of God?—He must obey his God, at whatever cost, but he may at the same time put forth consistent Christian effort to enlighten the lawmakers as to the principles involved. He may seek to have the law repealed. He may do this by personal effort, and in union with others, in such ways as it is lawful to seek relief.

Never can the Christian resort to personal violence in the accomplishment of his ends. He will not engage in private brawl, nor will he be found inciting rebellion or riot. Rather than this, he must suffer meekly the penalty of the law, however unjust, leaving to God the vindication of his cause. By this course of conduct, and in this spirit working to redress the wrong, the Christian is giving the highest proof of his loyalty to government. He is standing for fundamental principles; and in seeking to induce his government to confine its activities to that sphere to which God has justly limited its authority, he is rendering to it the highest possible service.

NOTABLE BIBLE EXAMPLES

For this undeviating stand for right and principle, the Christian has authority in notable examples given in the Sacred Writings. When Daniel was required, on pain of death, to obey the law of Medo-Persia contrary to the express command of God, he resolutely refused; and when he was cast into the den of lions, God wrought for him a wonderful deliverance, thus vindicating him in the noble stand he had taken. Daniel 6.

A similar experience came to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the reign of Nebuchadnezzar. This king erected on the plain of Dura a great golden image, and assembled to its dedication the chief men of his extensive empire. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego repaired to the plain of Dura with the others. With the others they stood in the presence of the golden image. Thus far they were willing to obey the law of Nebuchadnezzar. But when the command was given to bow down and worship the golden image, these three men refused to obey the royal edict. They knew it was a direct violation of the law of God. In the words of the Saviour, they feared not him who was able to destroy their bodies, but rather the One who was able to destroy both soul and body. Because of their stand, they were cast into the burning fiery furnace, but God vindicated their course by giving to them a miraculous deliverance. God declared that Nebuchadnezzar was His "servant," to execute His judgments upon the nations. Jer. 25:9. But when this servant of God exceeded his proper authority, and sought to legislate in things pertaining alone to God's jurisdiction, his folly was rebuked and his pride humbled.

Daniel and the three worthies surely showed greater loyalty to the governments under which they lived than did their accusers. Darius and Nebuchadnezzar overstepped the bounds set for their authority by Omnipotence. By their acts they took a course which would inevitably lead to national ruin, and invite the judgments of Heaven. In resisting these unjust measures, the servants of God sought to save their governments from this dire calamity. Surely they manifested a loyalty to God and a loyalty to their governments in strik-

ing contrast to the conduct of those who in their lofty claims to patriotism were willing to put to death men with whom there could be found no fault except in the allegiance which they gave to their God. Dan. 6:5.

"Government is never the gainer in the execution of a law that is manifestly unjust. . . . Conscientious men are not the enemies, but the friends, of any government but a tyranny. They are its strength, and not its weakness. Daniel, in Babylon, praying, contrary to the law, was the true friend and supporter of the government; while those who, in their pretended zeal for the law and the constitution, would strike down the good man, were its real enemies. It is only when government transcends its sphere that it comes in conflict with the consciences of men."—*"Moral Science,"* by James H. Fairchild, p. 179.

OBEX GOD RATHER THAN MEN

Nor are such instances confined alone to the Old Testament Scriptures. The apostle Peter and his companions were brought into similar straits. Commanded by ruling authorities not to teach nor preach in the name of Jesus, the apostles answered, "We ought to obey God rather than men." Acts 5:29. God showed His approval by the mighty power of His Spirit which attended their labors.

Of all men, the Christian should be free from just offense. He should be quiet, orderly, honest, neighborly, law-abiding. Every relation in life should be regulated by sincere devotion to God and to his fellow men. He should love God supremely and his neighbor as himself. Love to God and love to man—upon these two great principles hang all the law and the prophets.

Conform to Civil Laws

"Teach the people to conform in all things to the laws of their State, when they can do so without conflicting with the law of God."—*"Testimonies,"* Vol. IX, p. 238.

God and Cæsar

"Pointing to the inscription on the coin, Jesus said, 'Render therefore unto Cæsar the things which are Cæsar's; and unto God the things that are God's.' . . .

"Christ's reply was no evasion, but a candid answer to the question. Holding in His hand the Roman coin, upon which were stamped the name and image of Cæsar, He declared that since they were living under the protection of the Roman power, they should render to that power the support it claimed, so long as this did not conflict with a higher duty. But while peaceably subject to the laws of the land, they should at all times give their first allegiance to God."—*"The Desire of Ages,"* p. 602.

Protestant Protest

"The principles contained in this celebrated Protest . . . constitute the very essence of Protestantism. Now this Protest opposes two abuses of man in matters of faith: the first is the intrusion of the civil magistrate, and the second the arbitrary authority of the church. Instead of these abuses, Protestantism sets the power of conscience above the magistrate, and the authority of the word of God above the visible church. In the first place, it rejects the civil power in divine things, and says with the prophets and apostles, "We must obey God rather than man." In presence of the crown of Charles the Fifth, it uplifts the crown of Jesus Christ. But it goes farther: it lays down the principle that all human teaching should be subordinate to the oracles of God.'—*D'Aubigné, b. 13, ch. 6.* The protesters had moreover affirmed their right to utter freely their convictions of truth. They would not only believe and obey, but teach what the word of God presents, and they denied the right of priest or magistrate to interfere. The Protest of Spire was a solemn witness against religious intolerance, and an assertion of the right of all men to worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences."—*"The Great Controversy,"* pp. 203, 204.

Not to Defy Authorities

"The banner of truth and religious liberty held aloft by the founders of the gospel church and by God's witnesses during the centuries that have passed since then, has, in this last conflict, been committed to our hands. The responsibility for this great gift rests with those whom God has blessed with a knowledge of His word. We are to receive this word as supreme authority. We are to recognize human government as an ordinance of divine appointment, and teach obedience to it as a sacred duty, within its legitimate sphere. But when its claims conflict with the claims of God, we must obey God rather than men. God's word must be recognized as above all human legislation. A 'Thus saith the Lord' is not to be set aside for a 'Thus saith the church' or a 'Thus saith the state.' The crown of Christ is to be lifted above the diadems of earthly potentates.

"We are not required to defy authorities. Our words, whether spoken or written, should be carefully considered, lest we place ourselves on record as uttering that which would make us appear antagonistic to law and order. We are not to say or do anything that would unnecessarily close up our way. We are to go forward in Christ's name, advocating the truths committed to us. If we are forbidden by men to do this work, then we may say, as did the apostles, 'Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.'"—*"The Acts of the Apostles,"* pp. 68, 69.

Paul's Admonition to Timothy

"The apostle plainly outlined the attitude that believers should sustain toward the civil authorities: 'Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evil doers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: as free, and not using your liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.'"—*Id.*, p. 522.

"The principle for which the disciples stood so fearlessly when, in answer to the command not to speak any more in the name of Jesus, they declared, 'Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye' (Acts 4:19), is the same that the adherents of the gospel struggled to maintain in the days of the Reformation. . . .

"This principle we in our day are firmly to maintain."—*"Gospel Workers,"* p. 389.

Same Crisis in All the World

"The less we make direct charges against authorities and powers, the greater work we shall be able to accomplish, both in America and in foreign countries. Foreign nations will follow the example of the United States. Though she leads out, yet the same crisis will come upon our people in all parts of the world."—*"Testimonies,"* Vol. VI, p. 395.

THE SABBATH KEEPER AND SUNDAY LAWS

WHILE the first day of the week has no just claim to sanctity, it has for centuries been regarded as a holy day by the large majority of the Christian church. It is for us to proclaim the Sabbath of the Lord as a part of God's immutable law, as a part of the message for this day and generation; but at the same time we should not hold in light esteem the religious convictions of our neighbors who observe Sunday. And we should study this principle in our relation to Sunday laws. These laws will be fostered and promoted by those who especially believe that the first day of the week is holy time. For us ruthlessly to set these laws at naught, to manifest toward them a spirit of defiance, to engage in labor regarded by our neighbors as ignoring and scorning their religious convictions, would have the effect to close their hearts against the entrance of the truth. On the contrary, if we shall so shape our labors on the first day of the week as to avoid giving offense, it would only serve to commend to those who differ with us, the religion which would lead us to this course. And this is in full harmony with the instruction that has come to us from the messenger of the Lord.

"DEAR BROTHER: I will try to answer your question as to what you should do in the case of Sunday laws' being enforced.

"The light given me by the Lord at a time when we were expecting just such a crisis as you seem to be approaching, was, that when the people were moved by a power from beneath to enforce Sunday observance, Seventh-day Adventists were to show their wisdom by refraining from their ordinary work on that day, devoting it to missionary effort.

"To defy the Sunday laws will but strengthen in their persecution the religious zealots who are seeking to enforce them. Give them no occasion to call you lawbreakers. If they are left to rein up men who fear neither God nor man, the reining up will soon lose its novelty for them, and they will see that it is not consistent nor convenient for them to be strict in regard to the observance of Sunday. Keep right on with your missionary work, with your Bibles in your hands, and the enemy will see that he has worsted his own cause. One does not receive the mark of the beast because he shows

that he realizes the wisdom of keeping the peace by refraining from work that gives offense, doing at the same time a work of the highest importance.

"When we devote Sunday to missionary work, the whip will be taken out of the hands of the arbitrary zealots who would be well pleased to humiliate Seventh-day Adventists. When they see that we employ ourselves on Sunday in visiting the people and opening the Scriptures to them, they will know that it is useless for them to try to hinder our work by making Sunday laws.

"Sunday can be used for carrying forward various lines of work that will accomplish much for the Lord. On this day open-air meetings and cottage meetings can be held. House-to-house work can be done. Those who write can devote this day to writing their articles. Whenever it is possible, let religious services be held on Sunday. Make these meetings intensely interesting. Sing genuine revival hymns, and speak with power and assurance of the Saviour's love. Speak on temperance and on true religious experience. You will thus learn much about how to work, and will reach many souls.

"Let the teachers in our schools devote Sunday to missionary effort. I was instructed that they would thus be able to defeat the purposes of the enemy. Let the teachers take the students with them to hold meetings for those who know not the truth. Thus they will accomplish much more than they could in any other way. . . .

"The Sabbath is the Lord's test, and no man, be he king, priest, or ruler, is authorized to come between God and man. Those who seek to be conscience for their fellow men, place themselves above God. Those who are under the influence of a false religion, who observe a spurious rest day, will set aside the most positive evidence in regard to the true Sabbath. They will try to compel men to obey the laws of their own creation, laws that are directly opposed to the law of God. Upon those who continue in this course, the wrath of God will fall. Unless they change, they cannot escape the penalty.

"The law for the observance of the first day of the week is the production of an apostate Christendom. Sunday is a child of the Papacy, exalted by the Christian world above the sacred day of God's rest. In no case are God's people to pay it homage. But I wish them to understand that they are not doing God's will by braving opposition when He wishes them to avoid it. Thus they create prejudice so bitter that it is impossible for the truth to be proclaimed. Make no demonstration on Sunday in defiance of law. If this is done in one place, and you are humiliated, the same thing will be done in another place. We can use Sunday as a day on which to carry forward work that will tell on the side of Christ. We

are to do our best, working with all meekness and lowliness. . . .

“‘When they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another.’ It is not the will of God that your lives should be carelessly sacrificed. ‘Verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.’ Matt. 10:23.

“The people must be given the truth, straightforward, positive truth. But this truth is to be presented in the spirit of Christ. We are to be as sheep in the midst of wolves. Those who will not, for Christ’s sake, observe the cautions He has given, who will not exercise patience and self-control, will lose precious opportunities of working for the Master. The Lord has not given His people the work of making a tirade against those who are transgressing His law. In no case are we to make a raid on the other churches. . . .

“At one time, those in charge of our school at Avondale inquired of me, saying: ‘What shall we do? The officers of the law have been commissioned to arrest those working on Sunday.’ I replied: ‘It will be very easy to avoid that difficulty. Give Sunday to the Lord as a day for doing missionary work. Take the students out to hold meetings in different places, and to do medical missionary work. They will find the people at home, and will have a splendid opportunity to present the truth. This way of spending Sunday is always acceptable to the Lord.’”—“*Testimonies*,” Vol. IX, pp. 232-238.

“The Lord has said, ‘Verily My Sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations.’ Ex. 31:13. None should disobey His command in order to escape persecution. But let all consider the words of Christ, ‘When they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another.’ Matt. 10:23. If it can be avoided, do not put yourselves into the power of men who are worked by the spirit of antichrist. Everything that we can do should be done that those who are willing to suffer for the truth’s sake may be saved from oppression and cruelty.”—*Id.*, p. 230.

LOYALTY NOT COMPROMISE

Does this course advised by the messenger of the Lord mean compromise? Nay, verily. It means, in fact, the very opposite. The counsel is that instead of engaging in our usual occupations which would violate the law of the land, discrediting us in the estimation of those whom we might hope to reach by the truth, we shall take this day for missionary work. And of what will that missionary work consist? It will be giving to our friends and neighbors the message for this day and generation.

One most important phase of this message is the proclamation of the law of God, of the Sabbath of that law, of the prophecies pointing out the evils of religious legislation, and sounding a warning against the beast, against his image, and against the reception of his mark. There can be no compromise in employing the first day of the week in this manner.

ROBBED OF GOD-GIVEN RIGHTS

We have a God-given right to work six days, to employ those six days in earning a livelihood and in the enjoyment of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We recognize that when any of these God-given rights are denied us by legal prohibition, the state has exceeded its authority. Under such circumstances it would be the privilege of the Christian to seek redress by petition or by securing repeal of the law, or by all other legal and legitimate means. But so long as the abridgment of his liberty did not compel him to do violence to his conscientious convictions of Christian duty, he would not be justified in defying and openly resisting the civil law.

This principle led the apostle Paul to teach that he would so far abridge his own personal liberty that if the eating of certain foods made his brother to offend, he would not eat those foods while the world stood. This same principle led Christ the Lord to pay the temple tax for Himself and Peter when by right He was exempt from this taxation.

THE SIGN OF GOD'S AUTHORITY

The reception of the mark of the beast in the closing controversy will not come alone through refraining from labor upon the first day of the week. There must be associated with this the violation of the law of God. The Sabbath is a sign between God and His people. Ex. 31:13-17. The one who fails to possess in his character and practice this distinguishing mark, will align himself under the banner of error and be counted on the side of antichrist.

And so the persecution of the closing days against the remnant will be particularly because of their observance of the Sabbath of the Lord, and the grand objective of the opposition will be to force them to disregard God's law.

The following brief statements from the writings of the messenger of the Lord clearly indicate this:

“Men will exalt and rigidly enforce laws that are in direct opposition to the law of God. . . . They will seek to force men to dishonor the law of Jehovah. . . . God’s people will feel the hand of persecution because they keep holy the seventh day. . . . Those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, will feel the ire of the dragon and his hosts. . . . All will be required to render obedience to human edicts in violation of the divine law.”—*“Testimonies,” Vol. IX, pp. 229-231.*

“Those who honor the Bible Sabbath will be denounced as enemies of law and order.”—*“The Great Controversy,” p. 592.*

Persecution will be visited upon the remnant church, not primarily because they work on the first day of the week, but because they observe the Sabbath. Nor will they be exempt from persecution because they refrain from labor upon the first day of the week. The persecution will come because God’s children observe His sign of loyalty and keep the Sabbath enjoined by His commandment.

SATAN AND MIRACLES

THE final crisis in earth's history will be marked by the deceptive and mighty workings of Satan. The Master declares that he will deceive if possible the very elect. Matt. 24:24. This he will do in devious ways adapted to the susceptibility of each individual. He will appear, as stated by the apostle Paul, as an angel of light. Gracious truths will come from his lips or from the lips of his representatives, but intermingled with these truths will be the poison of error, sufficient to corrupt the soul and to lead men from the one source of salvation, the Lord Jesus Christ.

"Then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming: even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." 2 Thess. 2:8-12.

By the means of those miracles he will deceive the nations, and "gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." Rev. 16:14. By his miracle-working power he will work through the evil agencies which he will set in operation to create an image to the beast and to lead men to worship the same. Rev. 13:14.

As an Angel of Light

"Satan came as an angel of light in the wilderness of temptation to deceive Christ; and he does not come to man in a hideous form, as he is sometimes represented, but as an angel of light. He will come personating Jesus Christ, working mighty miracles; and men will fall down and worship him as Jesus Christ. We shall be commanded to worship this being, whom the world will glorify as Christ."—*Review and Herald*, Dec. 18, 1888.

Antichrist to Perform Marvelous Works

"Antichrist is to perform his marvelous works in our sight. So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true, that it will be impos-

sible to distinguish between them except by the Holy Scriptures. By their testimony every statement and every miracle must be tested.”—*“Spirit of Prophecy,” Vol. IV, p. 411.*

Satan to Work Miracles

“As Spiritualism more closely imitates the nominal Christianity of the day, it has greater power to deceive and ensnare. Satan himself is converted, after the modern order of things. He will appear in the character of an angel of light. Through the agency of Spiritualism, miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and many undeniable wonders will be performed. And as the spirits will profess faith in the Bible, and manifest respect for the institutions of the church, their work will be accepted as a manifestation of divine power.”—*“The Great Controversy,” p. 588.*

A Corrupt Harmony

“Before the warfare shall be ended and the victory won, we as a people are to experience trials similar to those of Paul. We shall encounter the same hardness of heart, the same cruel determination, the same unyielding hatred. . . . Persecution will again be kindled against those who are true to God; their motives will be impugned, their best efforts misinterpreted, their names cast out as evil. . . .

“Then Satan will work with all his fascinating power to influence the heart and becloud the understanding, to make evil appear good, and good evil. Then it is that he is, through his agents, to ‘show great signs and wonders, insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.’ God would have His people prepared for the soon-coming crisis. Prepared or unprepared, we must all meet it. . . .

“In that coming emergency, rulers and magistrates will not interpose in behalf of God’s people. There will be a corrupt harmony with all who have not been obedient to the law of God. In that day, all timeservers, all who have not the genuine work of grace in the heart, will be found wanting. It will require the firmest truth, the most heroic purpose, to hold fast the faith once delivered to the saints.”—*“Sketches From the Life of Paul” (old edition), pp. 251, 252.*

Devils Personate Relatives

“Many will be confronted by the spirits of devils personating beloved relatives or friends, and declaring the most dangerous heresies. These visitants will appeal to our tenderest sympathies, and will work miracles to sustain their pretensions. We must be prepared to withstand them with the Bible truth that the dead know not anything, and that they who thus appear are the spirits of devils.

“Just before us is the ‘hour of temptation, which shall come upon

all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.' Rev. 3:10. All whose faith is not firmly established upon the word of God will be deceived and overcome. Satan 'works with all deceivableness of unrighteousness' to gain control of the children of men; and his deceptions will continually increase. But he can gain his object only as men voluntarily yield to his temptations. Those who are earnestly seeking a knowledge of the truth, and are striving to purify their souls through obedience, thus doing what they can to prepare for the conflict, will find, in the God of truth, a sure defense. 'Because thou hast kept the word of My patience, I also will keep thee' (Isa. 28:15), is the Saviour's promise. He would sooner send every angel out of heaven to protect His people, than leave one soul that trusts in Him to be overcome by Satan."—*"The Great Controversy,"* p. 560.

Satan Personates Christ

"The apostle John in vision heard a loud voice in heaven exclaiming, 'Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.' Rev. 12:12. Fearful are the scenes which call forth this exclamation from the heavenly voice. The wrath of Satan increases as his time grows short, and his work of deceit and destruction will reach its culmination in the time of trouble.

"Fearful sights of a supernatural character will soon be revealed in the heavens, in token of the power of miracle-working demons. The spirits of devils will go forth to the kings of the earth and to the whole world, to fasten them in deception, and urge them on to unite with Satan in his last struggle against the government of heaven. By these agencies, rulers and subjects will be alike deceived. Persons will arise pretending to be Christ Himself, and claiming the title and worship which belong to the world's Redeemer. They will perform wonderful miracles of healing, and will profess to have revelations from heaven contradicting the testimony of the Scriptures.

"As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ. The church has long professed to look to the Saviour's advent as the consummation of her hopes. Now the great deceiver will make it appear that Christ has come. In different parts of the earth, Satan will manifest himself among men as a majestic being of dazzling brightness, resembling the description of the Son of God given by John in the Revelation. Rev. 1:13-15. The glory that surrounds him is unsurpassed by anything that mortal eyes have yet beheld. The shout of triumph rings out upon the air, 'Christ has come! Christ has come!' The people prostrate themselves in adoration before him, while he lifts up his hands, and pronounces a blessing upon them, as Christ blessed His disciples when

He was upon the earth. His voice is soft and subdued, yet full of melody. In gentle, compassionate tones he presents some of the same gracious heavenly truths which the Saviour uttered; he heals the diseases of the people, and then, in his assumed character of Christ, he claims to have changed the Sabbath to Sunday, and commands all to hallow the day which he has blessed. He declares that those who persist in keeping holy the seventh day are blaspheming his name by refusing to listen to his angels sent to them with light and truth. This is the strong, almost overmastering delusion. Like the Samaritans who were deceived by Simon Magus, the multitudes, from the least to the greatest, give heed to these sorceries, saying, This is 'the great power of God.' Acts 8:10.

"But the people of God will not be misled. The teachings of this false christ are not in accordance with the Scriptures. His blessing is pronounced upon the worshipers of the beast and his image, the very class upon whom the Bible declares that God's unmingled wrath shall be poured out.

"And, furthermore, Satan is not permitted to counterfeit the manner of Christ's advent. The Saviour has warned His people against deception upon this point, and has clearly foretold the manner of His second coming. 'There shall arise false christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. . . . Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, He is in the desert; go not forth: behold, He is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.' Matt. 24:24-27, 31; 25:31; Rev. 1:7; 1 Thess. 4:16, 17. This coming, there is no possibility of counterfeiting. It will be universally known—witnessed by the whole world."—*Id.*, pp. 623-625.

Formal Church Deceived by Miracles

"The line of distinction between professed Christians and the ungodly is now hardly distinguishable. Church members love what the world loves, and are ready to join with them; and Satan determines to unite them in one body, and thus strengthen his cause by sweeping all into the ranks of Spiritualism. Papists, who boast of miracles as a certain sign of the true church, will be readily deceived by this wonder-working power; and Protestants, having cast away the shield of truth, will also be deluded. Papists, Protestants, and worldlings will alike accept the form of godliness without the power, and they will see in this union a grand movement for the conversion of the world, and the ushering in of the long-expected millennium."—*Id.*, pp. 588, 589.

PESTILENCES AND PERSECUTION

IN the coming crisis the church of Christ will suffer persecution. Indeed, this has been the inheritance of the church through all the ages. It was when Paul was a prisoner in Rome that he wrote to Timothy, "All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." 2 Tim. 3:12. "In the world," says the Master, "ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16:33.

When Paul was called to the apostleship of the Gentile world, the Lord pronounced him "a chosen vessel unto Me, to bear My name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: for I will show him how great things he must suffer for My name's sake." Acts 9:15,16. And the apostle recognized that not only he but all the children of faith must "through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God." He declares that he gloried in tribulation because it wrought out in his experience patience and other Christian graces. Rom. 5:3. "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong." 2 Cor. 12:10.

So confident was the apostle of the value of trials in his life that he could declare with full assurance, "We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." Rom. 8:28. The church of Christ today, therefore, is not to faint in the day of trial and persecution; Christ will impose upon them no test or load of labor but that He will furnish them the needed grace and strength. (See 1 Cor. 10:13; Ps. 103:13, 14.)

Accused as the Cause of Judgments

"Those who honor the law of God have been accused of bringing judgments upon the world, and they will be regarded as the cause of the fearful convulsions of nature and the strife and bloodshed among men that are filling the earth with woe. The power attending the last warning has enraged the wicked; their anger is kindled against all who have received the message, and Satan will excite to

still greater intensity the spirit of hatred and persecution.”—“*The Great Controversy*,” pp. 614, 615.

Satan as a Great Physician

“Satan works through the elements also to garner his harvest of unprepared souls. He has studied the secrets of the laboratories of nature, and he uses all his power to control the elements as far as God allows. When he was suffered to afflict Job, how quickly flocks and herds, servants, houses, children, were swept away, one trouble succeeding another as in a moment. It is God that shields His creatures, and hedges them in from the power of the destroyer. But the Christian world have shown contempt for the law of Jehovah; and the Lord will do just what He has declared that He would,—He will withdraw His blessings from the earth, and remove His protecting care from those who are rebelling against His law, and teaching and forcing others to do the same. Satan has control of all whom God does not especially guard. He will favor and prosper some, in order to further his own designs; and he will bring trouble upon others, and lead men to believe that it is God who is afflicting them.

“While appearing to the children of men as a great physician who can heal all their maladies, he will bring disease and disaster, until populous cities are reduced to ruin and desolation. Even now he is at work. In accidents and calamities by sea and by land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hailstorms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in every place and in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power. He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and famine and distress follow. He imparts to the air a deadly taint, and thousands perish by the pestilence. These visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous. Destruction will be upon both man and beast. ‘The earth mourneth and fadeth away,’ ‘the haughty people . . . do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.’ Isa. 24:4, 5.

Cause of Calamities

“And then the great deceiver will persuade men that those who serve God are causing these evils. The class that have provoked the displeasure of Heaven will charge all their troubles upon those whose obedience to God’s commandments is a perpetual reproof to transgressors. It will be declared that men are offending God by the violation of the Sunday sabbath; that this sin has brought calamities which will not cease until Sunday observance shall be strictly en-

forced; and that those who present the claims of the fourth commandment, thus destroying reverence for Sunday, are troublers of the people, preventing their restoration to divine favor and temporal prosperity. Thus the accusation urged of old against the servant of God will be repeated, and upon grounds equally well established: 'And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel? And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and thou hast followed Baalim.' 1 Kings 18:17, 18. As the wrath of the people shall be excited by false charges, they will pursue a course toward God's ambassadors very similar to that which apostate Israel pursued toward Elijah."—*Id.*, pp. 589, 590.

Our People Insignificant, but a Change Will Come

"Our people have been regarded as too insignificant to be worthy of notice; but a change will come. The Christian world is now making movements which will necessarily bring commandment-keeping people into prominence. There is a constant supplanting of God's truth by the theories and false doctrines of human origin. Movements are being set on foot to enslave the consciences of those who would be loyal to God. The lawmaking powers will be against God's people. Every soul will be tested."—"Testimonies," Vol. V, p. 546.

The Whole World Against Seventh-day Adventists

"The whole world is to be stirred with enmity against Seventh-day Adventists, because they will not yield homage to the Papacy by honoring Sunday, the institution of this anti-Christian power. It is the purpose of Satan to cause them to be blotted from the earth, in order that his supremacy of the world may not be disputed."—*Review and Herald*, Aug. 22, 1893.

Spirits Approve Sunday

"The miracle-working power manifested through Spiritualism will exert its influence against those who choose to obey God rather than men. Communications from the spirits will declare that God has sent them to convince the rejecters of Sunday of their error, affirming that the laws of the land should be obeyed as the law of God. They will lament the great wickedness in the world, and second the testimony of religious teachers, that the degraded state of morals is caused by the desecration of Sunday. Great will be the indignation excited against all who refuse to accept their testimony."—"The Great Controversy," pp. 590, 591.

Persecution on Account of the Sabbath

“Religious powers, allied to heaven by profession, and claiming to have the characteristics of a lamb, will show by their acts that they have the heart of a dragon, and that they are instigated and controlled by Satan. The time is coming when God’s people will feel the hand of persecution because they keep holy the seventh day. Satan has caused the change of the Sabbath in the hope of carrying out his purpose for the defeat of God’s plans. He seeks to make the commands of God of less force in the world than human laws. The man of sin, who thought to change times and laws, and who has always oppressed the people of God, will cause laws to be made enforcing the observance of the first day of the week. But God’s people are to stand firm for Him. And the Lord will work in their behalf, showing plainly that He is the God of gods.”—*“Testimonies,” Vol. IX, pp. 229, 230.*

Sabbath the Test of Loyalty

“The Sabbath will be the great test of loyalty; for it is the point of truth especially controverted. When the final test shall be brought to bear upon men, then the line of distinction will be drawn between those who serve God and those who serve Him not. While the observance of the false sabbath in compliance with the law of the state, contrary to the fourth commandment, will be an avowal of allegiance to a power that is in opposition to God, the keeping of the true Sabbath, in obedience to God’s law, is an evidence of loyalty to the Creator. While one class, by accepting the sign of submission to earthly powers, receive the mark of the beast, the other, choosing the token of allegiance to divine authority, receive the seal of God.”—*“The Great Controversy,” p. 605.*

Persecution Because of Commandment Keeping

“The remnant church will be brought into great trial and distress. Those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, will feel the ire of the dragon and his hosts. Satan numbers the world as his subjects; he has gained control of the apostate churches; but here is a little company that are resisting his supremacy. If he could blot them from the earth, his triumph would be complete. As he influenced the heathen nations to destroy Israel, so in the near future he will stir up the wicked powers of earth to destroy the people of God. All will be required to render obedience to human edicts in violation of the divine law. Those who will be true to God and to duty will be betrayed ‘both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends.’ Luke 21:16.”—*“Testimonies,” Vol. IX, p. 231.*

Apostates Become Accusers

"As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel's message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position, and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side. Men of talent and pleasing address, who once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls. They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren. When Sabbath keepers are brought before the courts to answer for their faith, these apostates are the most efficient agents of Satan to misrepresent and accuse them, and by false reports and insinuations to stir up the rulers against them."—*"The Great Controversy,"* p. 608.

Bribe, Persuade, Compel

"The dignitaries of church and state will unite to bribe, persuade, or compel all classes to honor the Sunday. The lack of divine authority will be supplied by oppressive enactments. Political corruption is destroying love of justice and regard for truth; and even in free America, rulers and legislators, in order to secure public favor, will yield to the popular demand for a law enforcing Sunday observance. Liberty of conscience, which has cost so great a sacrifice, will no longer be respected. In the soon-coming conflict we shall see exemplified the prophet's words, 'The dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.' Rev. 12:17."—*Id.*, p. 592.

Force Men to Dishonor God's Law

"Men will exalt and rigidly enforce laws that are in direct opposition to the law of God. Though zealous in enforcing their own commandments, they will turn away from a plain 'Thus saith the Lord.' Exalting a spurious rest day, they will seek to force men to dishonor the law of Jehovah, the transcript of His character. Though innocent of wrong doing, the servants of God will be given over to suffer humiliation and abuse at the hands of those who, inspired by Satan, are filled with envy and religious bigotry."—*"Testimonies,"* Vol. IX, p. 229.

Law Invoked Against Sabbath Keepers

"As the controversy extends into new fields, and the minds of the people are called to God's downtrodden law, Satan is astir. The power attending the message will only madden those who oppose it.

The clergy will put forth almost superhuman efforts to shut away the light, lest it should shine upon their flocks. By every means at their command they will endeavor to suppress the discussion of these vital questions. The church appeals to the strong arm of civil power, and in this work, papists and Protestants unite. As the movement for Sunday enforcement becomes more bold and decided, the law will be invoked against commandment keepers. They will be threatened with fines and imprisonment, and some will be offered positions of influence, and other rewards and advantages, as inducements to renounce their faith. But their steadfast answer is, 'Show us from the word of God our error,'—the same plea that was made by Luther under similar circumstances. Those who are arraigned before the courts, make a strong vindication of the truth, and some who hear them are led to take their stand to keep all the commandments of God. Thus light will be brought before thousands who otherwise would know nothing of these truths."—*"The Great Controversy,"* p. 607.

Denounced as Enemies of the State

"Those who honor the Bible Sabbath will be denounced as enemies of law and order, as breaking down the moral restraints of society, causing anarchy and corruption, and calling down the judgments of God upon the earth. Their conscientious scruples will be pronounced obstinacy, stubbornness, and contempt of authority. They will be accused of disaffection toward the government. Ministers who deny the obligation of the divine law will present from the pulpit the duty of yielding obedience to the civil authorities as ordained of God. In legislative halls and courts of justice, commandment keepers will be misrepresented and condemned. A false coloring will be given to their words; the worst construction will be put upon their motives."—*Id.*, p. 592.

Fleeing From Cities

"As the decree issued by the various rulers of Christendom against commandment keepers shall withdraw the protection of government, and abandon them to those who desire their destruction, the people of God will flee from the cities and villages and associate together in companies, dwelling in the most desolate and solitary places. Many will find refuge in the strongholds of the mountains. Like the Christians of the Piedmont Valleys, they will make the high places of the earth their sanctuaries, and will thank God for the 'munitions of rocks.' Isa. 33:16. But many of all nations, and of all classes, high and low, rich and poor, black and white, will be cast into the most

unjust and cruel bondage. The beloved of God pass weary days, bound in chains, shut in by prison bars, sentenced to be slain, some apparently left to die of starvation in dark and loathsome dungeons. No human ear is open to hear their moans; no human hand is ready to lend them help."—*Id.*, p. 626.

Former Persecutions Revived

"God's word has given warning of the impending danger; let this be unheeded, and the Protestant world will learn what the purposes of Rome really are, only when it is too late to escape the snare. She is silently growing into power. Her doctrines are exerting their influence in legislative halls, in the churches, and in the hearts of men. She is piling up her lofty and massive structures, in the secret recesses of which her former persecutions will be repeated. Stealthily and unsuspectedly she is strengthening her forces to further her own ends when the time shall come for her to strike. All that she desires is vantage ground, and this is already being given her. We shall soon see and shall feel what the purpose of the Roman element is. Whoever shall believe and obey the word of God, will thereby incur reproach and persecution."—*Id.*, p. 581.

Plunged Into Scenes of Affliction

"As the approach of the Roman armies was a sign to the disciples of the impending destruction of Jerusalem, so may this apostasy be a sign to us that the limit of God's forbearance is reached, that the measure of our nation's iniquity is full, and that the angel of mercy is about to take her flight, never to return. The people of God will then be plunged into those scenes of affliction and distress which prophets have described as the time of Jacob's trouble. The cries of the faithful, persecuted ones ascend to heaven."—"Testimonies," Vol. V, p. 451.

Sunday Decree a Sign

"It is no time now for God's people to be fixing their affections or laying up their treasure in the world. The time is not far distant, when, like the early disciples, we shall be forced to seek a refuge in desolate and solitary places. As the siege of Jerusalem by the Roman armies was the signal for flight to the Judean Christians, so the assumption of power on the part of our nation, in the decree enforcing the papal sabbath, will be a warning to us. It will then be time to leave the large cities, preparatory to leaving the smaller ones for retired homes in secluded places among the mountains. And now,

instead of seeking expensive dwellings here, we should be preparing to move to a better country, even a heavenly. Instead of spending our means in self-gratification, we should be studying to economize. Every talent lent of God should be used to His glory, in giving the warning to the world."—*Id.*, pp. 464, 465.

Appointed Unto Death

"As the Sabbath has become the special point of controversy throughout Christendom, and religious and secular authorities have combined to enforce the observance of the Sunday, the persistent refusal of a small minority to yield to the popular demand, will make them objects of universal execration. It will be urged that the few who stand in opposition to an institution of the church and a law of the state, ought not to be tolerated; that it is better for them to suffer than for whole nations to be thrown into confusion and lawlessness. The same argument eighteen hundred years ago was brought against Christ by the 'rulers of the people.' 'It is expedient for us,' said the wily Caiaphas, 'that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not.' John 11:50. This argument will appear conclusive; and a decree will finally be issued against those who hallow the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, denouncing them as deserving of the severest punishment, and giving the people liberty, after a certain time, to put them to death. Romanism in the Old World, and apostate Protestantism in the New, will pursue a similar course toward those who honor all the divine precepts.

"The people of God will then be plunged into those scenes of affliction and distress described by the prophet as the time of Jacob's trouble. 'Thus saith the Lord: We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace. . . . All faces are turned into paleness. Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.' Jer. 30:5-7." —*"The Great Controversy,"* pp. 615, 616.

When the Mark of the Beast Is Received

"Fearful is the issue to which the world is to be brought. The powers of earth, uniting to war against the commandments of God, will decree that all, 'both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond' (Rev. 13:16), shall conform to the customs of the church by the observance of the false sabbath. All who refuse compliance will be visited with civil penalties, and it will finally be declared that they are deserving of death. On the other hand, the law of God enjoins

ing the Creator's rest day demands obedience, and threatens wrath against all who transgress its precepts.

"With the issue thus clearly brought before him, whoever shall trample upon God's law to obey a human enactment, receives the mark of the beast; he accepts the sign of allegiance to the power which he chooses to obey instead of God. The warning from heaven is, 'If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation.' Rev. 14:9, 10.

"But not one is made to suffer the wrath of God until the truth has been brought home to his mind and conscience, and has been rejected. There are many who have never had an opportunity to hear the special truths for this time. The obligation of the fourth commandment has never been set before them in its true light. He who reads every heart, and tries every motive, will leave none who desire a knowledge of the truth, to be deceived as to the issues of the controversy. The decree is not to be urged upon the people blindly. Every one is to have sufficient light to make his decision intelligently."—*Id.*, pp. 604, 605.

OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD OPPOSITION

IN the crisis days of the future the truth of God will meet bitter opposition, and those who proclaim the message for this day and generation will suffer trial and persecution because of their espousal of an unpopular cause. Some of this opposition will come from wicked, designing men. On the other hand, there will be found on the side of opposition many who are honest of heart, and who, like Saul of old, will honestly believe that they are doing God service in opposing what they consider to be pernicious error.

Toward both of these classes the advocate of truth must exercise that spirit which should always accompany the advocacy of the gospel, namely, the spirit of love. He must seek to win even those who are most bitter in their opposition. The relation of the Christian today toward the unbelieving world must be the relation of Christ the Lord. We know what He did in the hour of persecution. His enemies crucified Him upon the cross. During His hours of agony they mocked Him to His face. They derided His claims to the Messiahship. They called upon Him to prove that He was the Christ by descending from the cross. By one flash of His mighty power Christ the Lord could have silenced the accusations of His enemies, but this would have been contrary to His mission and to the Spirit of love that filled His heart. Even in the hours of His agony His heart went out for the salvation of those who derided Him in His dying agony. He prayed, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." And this must be the attitude of the children of God in coming days toward those who may oppress them.

Sunday Advocates Blinded

"There are many, even of those engaged in this movement for Sunday enforcement, who are blinded to the results which will follow this action. They do not see that they are striking directly against religious liberty. There are many who have never understood the claims of the Bible Sabbath and the false foundation upon which the Sunday institution rests."—*"Testimonies," Vol. V, p. 711.*

Not to Expect Favor

"Those who present the truth for this time should not expect to be received with greater favor than were earlier reformers. The great controversy between truth and error, between Christ and Satan, is to increase in intensity to the close of this world's history."—*"The Great Controversy,"* p. 144.

Remove Prejudice

"We are to do all we can to remove the prejudice that exists in the minds of many against our work and against the Bible Sabbath."—*"Testimonies,"* Vol. IX, p. 238.

No Retaliation or Defiance

"There is to be a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation. Our work is to study to weed out of all our discourses everything that savors of retaliation and defiance and making a drive against churches and individuals, because this is not Christ's way and method."—*Id.*, p. 244.

Represent the Love of God

"Our ministers and teachers are to represent the love of God to a fallen world. With hearts melted in tenderness let the word of truth be spoken. Let all who are in error be treated with the gentleness of Christ. If those for whom you labor do not immediately grasp the truth, do not censure, do not criticize or condemn. Remember that you are to represent Christ in His meekness and gentleness and love.

"We must expect to meet unbelief and opposition. The truth has always had to contend with these elements. But though you should meet the bitterest opposition, do not denounce your opponents. They may think, as did Paul, that they are doing God service; and to such we must manifest patience, meekness, and long-suffering."—*"Gospel Workers,"* p. 372.

Treat Opponents With Respect

"The Lord wants His people to follow other methods than that of condemning wrong, even though the condemnation is just. He wants us to do something more than to hurl at our adversaries charges that only drive them farther from the truth. The work which Christ came to do in our world was not to erect barriers, and constantly thrust upon the people the fact that they were wrong. He who expects to enlighten a deceived people must come near to them and labor for them in love. He must become a center of holy influence.

"In the advocacy of truth the bitterest opponents should be treated with respect and deference. Some will not respond to our efforts, but will make light of the gospel invitation. Others, even

those whom we suppose to have passed the boundary of God's mercy, will be won to Christ. The very last work in the controversy may be the enlightenment of those who have not rejected light and evidence, but who have been in midnight darkness, and have in ignorance worked against the truth. Therefore treat every man as honest. Speak no word, do no deed, that will confirm any in unbelief.

"If any one shall seek to draw the workers into debate or controversy on political or other questions, take no heed to either persuasion or challenge. Carry forward the work of God firmly and strongly, but in the meekness of Christ, and as quietly as possible. Let no human boasting be heard. Let no sign of self-sufficiency be made. Let it be seen that God has called us to handle sacred trusts; preach the word, be diligent, earnest, and fervent."—*Id.*, pp. 373, 374.

Present the Truth With Tact

"The truth should be presented with divine tact, gentleness, and tenderness. It should come from a heart that has been softened and made sympathetic. We need to have close communion with God, lest self rise up, as it did in Jehu, and we pour forth a torrent of words that are unbefitting, that are not as dew, or as the still showers that revive the withering plants. Let our words be gentle as we seek to win souls. God will be wisdom to him who seeks for wisdom from a divine source."—"*Testimonies*," Vol. VI, p. 400.

The Burden of Our Message

"The question of religious liberty is very important, and it should be handled with great wisdom and discretion. Unless this is done, there is danger that by our own course of action we shall bring upon ourselves a crisis before we are prepared for it. The burden of our message should be 'the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.' Our brethren should be cautioned to make moves that will not stir up and provoke the powers that be, so that they will make moves that will limit the work, and cut us off from proclaiming the message in different localities."—"*Testimonies to Ministers*," pp. 219, 220.

Agree With Others

"Agree with every one on every subject you can. Admit it when he is right; for the acknowledgment will greatly help to draw him nearer to you. He will then have no occasion to think you consider your own opinions infallible, or that you look upon him with contempt. As workers for Christ we want sanctified tact. Study to be skillful when there are no rules to meet the case. Win hearts, not repulse them. In this kind of work more than in any other that can be undertaken, you need wisdom from above."—*Review and Herald*, Dec. 16, 1884.

Speak the Truth in Love

"Let not those who write for our papers make unkind thrusts and allusions that will certainly do harm, and that will hedge up the way and hinder us from doing the work that we should do in order to reach all classes, the Catholics included. It is our work to speak the truth in love, and not to mix in with the truth the unsanctified elements of the natural heart, and speak things that savor of the same spirit possessed by our enemies. All sharp thrusts will come back upon us in double measure when the power is in the hands of those who can exercise it for our injury. Over and over the message has been given to me that we are not to say one word, not to publish one sentence, especially by way of personalities, unless positively essential in vindicating the truth, that will stir up our enemies against us, and arouse their passions to a white heat. Our work will soon be closed up, and soon the time of trouble, such as never was, will come upon us, of which we have but little idea."—*"Testimonies," Vol. IX, p. 241.*

Reaction From Unguarded Expressions

"The time will come when unguarded expressions of a denunciatory character, that have been carelessly spoken or written by our brethren, will be used by our enemies to condemn us. These . . . will be charged upon the whole body of Adventists. Our accusers will say that on such and such a day one of our responsible men said thus and so against the administration of the laws of this government. Many will be astonished to see how many things have been cherished and remembered that will give point to the arguments of our adversaries. Many will be surprised to hear their own words strained into a meaning that they did not intend them to have. Then let our workers be careful to speak guardedly at all times and under all circumstances. Let all beware lest by reckless expressions they bring on a time of trouble before the great crisis which is to try men's souls."—*Id., Vol. VI, pp. 394, 395.*

No Attack on Individuals or Institutions

"It is not wise to find fault continually with what is done by the rulers of government. It is not our work to attack individuals or institutions. We should exercise great care lest we be understood as putting ourselves in opposition to the civil authorities. It is true that our warfare is aggressive, but our weapons are to be those found in a plain 'Thus saith the Lord.' Our work is to prepare a people to stand in the great day of God. We should not be turned aside to lines that will encourage controversy, or arouse antagonism in those not of our faith.

"We should not work in a manner that will mark us out as seeming to advocate treason. We should weed out from our writings and utterances every expression that, taken by itself, could be so misrepresented as to make it appear antagonistic to law and order. Everything should be carefully considered, lest we place ourselves on record as encouraging disloyalty to our country and its laws. We are not required to defy authorities. There will come a time when, because of our advocacy of Bible truth, we shall be treated as traitors; but let not this time be hastened by unadvised movements that stir up animosity and strife."—*Id.*, p. 394.

No Hasty, Rash Expressions

"I beg of you for Christ's sake, let no hasty, rash expressions fall from your lips, let no extravagant language be used, let nothing be uttered that will savor of railing, for all this is human. Christ has no part in it. Let the ready writers be careful how they use their pens, lest they may seem to cast ridicule upon the positions of believers or unbelievers. We shall find our only safety in preserving the lowly spirit of Christ, in making straight paths for our feet, lest the lame be turned out of the way. The meekness and lowliness of Christ must take possession of the soul."—*Testimonies to Ministers*," p. 219.

Not to Invite Persecution

"Let every one bear in mind that we are in no case to invite persecution. We are not to use harsh and cutting words. Keep them out of every article written, drop them out of every address given. Let the word of God do the cutting, the rebuking; let finite men hide and abide in Jesus Christ. Let the spirit of Christ appear. Let all be guarded in their words, lest they place those not of our faith in deadly opposition against us, and give Satan an opportunity to use the unadvised words to hedge up our way."—*Testimonies*," Vol. IX, p. 244.

No Hard Thrusts at Catholics

"It is true that we are commanded to 'cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.' Isa. 58:1. This message must be given; but while it must be given, we should be careful not to thrust and crowd and condemn those who have not the light that we have. We should not go out of our way to make hard thrusts at the Catholics. Among the Catholics there are many who are most conscientious Christians, and who walk in all the light that shines upon them, and God will work in their behalf."—*Id.*, p. 243.

PREPARATION FOR THE CRISIS

How will the church of Christ meet the crisis hour of coming days? It cannot depend upon wealth or genius or education. It will have no recourse to human power. It must depend alone upon the mighty power of God. What preparation does it need for this experience? It needs a new cleansing from sin. It needs a new consecration of heart and life to the service of God. It needs a new and greater infilling of the Holy Spirit. And in this little waiting time before the crisis develops, there is afforded opportunity to secure this preparation.

Perils of the Last Days Here

"A storm is coming, relentless in its fury. Are we prepared to meet it?"

"We need not say, The perils of the last days are soon to come upon us. Already they have come. We need now the sword of the Lord to cut to the very soul and marrow of fleshly lusts, appetites, and passions.

"Minds that have been given up to loose thought need to change. 'Girding up the loins of your mind, be sober and set your hope perfectly on the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as children of obedience, not fashioning yourselves according to your former lusts in the time of your ignorance; but like as He who called you is holy, be ye yourselves also holy in all manner of living; because it is written, Ye shall be holy; for I am holy.' The thoughts must be centered upon God. Now is the time to put forth earnest effort to overcome the natural tendencies of the carnal heart."—*"Testimonies," Vol. VII, p. 315.*

The Tempest Coming

"The tempest is coming, and we must get ready for its fury by having repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord will arise to shake terribly the earth. We shall see troubles on all sides. Thousands of ships will be hurled into the depths of the sea. Navies will go down, and human lives will be sacrificed by millions. Fires will break out unexpectedly, and no human effort will be able to quench them. The palaces of earth will be swept away in the fury of the flames. Disasters by rail will become more and more frequent; confusion, collision, and death without a moment's warning will occur on the great lines of travel. The

end is near, probation is closing. Oh, let us seek God while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near! The prophet says, 'Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought His judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness; it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord's anger.'"—*Signs of the Times*, April 21, 1890.

The Hour of Temptation

"'Because thou hast kept the word of My patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.' Rev. 3:10. . . .

"We are now living in this trying hour." "The conflict that we are passing through is the last we shall have in this world. We are now in the midst of it."—*Review and Herald*, July 9, 1908.

Time of Trouble

"We are on the very verge of the time of trouble, and perplexities that are scarcely dreamed of are before us. . . . At this time—a time of overwhelming iniquity—a new life, coming from the Source of all life, is to take possession of those who have the love of God in their hearts."—"Testimonies," Vol. IX, pp. 43, 44.

More Spirituality and Consecration

"A great crisis awaits the people of God. Very soon our nation will attempt to enforce upon all, the observance of the first day of the week as a sacred day. In doing this, they will not scruple to compel men against the voice of their own conscience to observe the day the nation declares to be the Sabbath. In view of this, there must be among God's commandment-keeping people, more spirituality and a deeper consecration to God, and a zeal in His work that has never yet been reached, to hold aloft the banner of God's truth. . . .

"When declension and danger threaten the church, there will be more praying, more fasting, by the faithful few, and the Lord will answer the prayers offered to Him in sincerity, and at the same time He will come forth as an avenger because of the guiltiness of the evil workers. He will be a protector; for He will 'avenge His own elect, which cry day and night unto Him, though He bear long with them.'"—*Review and Herald Extra*, Dec. 11, 1888.

Decision to Say "Nay"

"Those who would not receive the mark of the beast and his image when the decree goes forth, must have decision now to say, 'Nay.'"—*Early Writings*, p. 67.

Tested Individually

"The members of the church will individually be tested and proved. They will be placed in circumstances where they will be forced to bear witness for the truth. Many will be called to speak before councils and in courts of justice, perhaps separately and alone. The experience which would have helped them in this emergency they have neglected to obtain, and their souls are burdened with remorse for wasted opportunities and neglected privileges."—*"Testimonies," Vol. V, p. 463.*

Every Position of Truth Criticized

"Have you that intensity of zeal, that piety and devotion, which will enable you to stand when opposition is brought upon you? If God has ever spoken by me, the time will come when we shall be brought before councils, and every position of truth which we hold will be severely criticized. The time that we are now allowing to go to waste should be devoted to the charge God has given us, of preparing for the approaching crisis. Much time should be spent in prayer, that our garments of character may be washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb."—*Review and Herald Extra, Dec. 11, 1888.*

Confession of Wrongs

"If there have been difficulties, . . . if envy, malice, bitterness, evil surmisings, have existed, confess these sins, not in a general way, but go to your brethren and sisters personally. Be definite. If you have committed one wrong and they twenty, confess that one as though you were *the chief offender*. Take them by the hand, let your heart soften under the influence of the Spirit of God, and say, 'Will you forgive me? I have not felt right toward you. I want to make right every wrong, that naught may stand registered against me in the books of heaven. I must have a clean record.' Who, think you, would withstand such a movement as this?"—*Review and Herald, Dec. 16, 1884.*

Stars Will Go Out in Darkness

"The time is not far distant when the test will come to every soul. The mark of the beast will be urged upon us. Those who have step by step yielded to worldly demands, and conformed to worldly customs, will not find it a hard matter to yield to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to derision, insult, threatened imprisonment and death. The contest is between the commandments of God and the commandments of men. In this time, the gold will be separated from the dross in the church. True godliness will be

clearly distinguished from the appearance and tinsel of it. Many a star that we have admired for its brilliancy, will then go out in darkness. Chaff like a cloud will be borne away on the wind, even from places where we see only floors of rich wheat. All who assume the ornaments of the sanctuary, but are not clothed with Christ's righteousness, will appear in the shame of their own nakedness."—*"Testimonies," Vol. V, p. 81.*

Measure Strength of Israel

"The days of purification of the church are hastening on apace. God will have a people pure and true. In the mighty sifting soon to take place, we shall be better able to measure the strength of Israel. The signs reveal that the time is near when the Lord will manifest that His fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly purge His floor. The days are fast approaching when there will be great perplexity and confusion. Satan, clothed in angel robes, will deceive, if possible, the very elect. There will be gods many and lords many. Every wind of doctrine will be blowing."—*Id., p. 80.*

The True Versus the False

"When trees without fruit are cut down as cumberers of the ground, when multitudes of false brethren are distinguished from the true, then the hidden ones will be revealed to view, and with hosannas range under the banner of Christ. Those who have been timid and self-distrustful, will declare themselves openly for Christ and His truth. The most weak and hesitating in the church, will be as David—willing to do and dare. The deeper the night for God's people, the more brilliant the stars. Satan will sorely harass the faithful, but in the name of Jesus, they will come off more than conquerors. Then will the church of Christ appear 'fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners.'"—*Id., pp. 81, 82.*

Whole Church Never Revived

"A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. . . . It is our work, by confession, humiliation, repentance, and earnest prayer, to fulfill the conditions upon which God has promised to grant us His blessing. A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer. . . . Are we hoping to see the whole church revived? That time will never come. . . .

"There is nothing that Satan fears so much as that the people of God shall clear the way by removing every hindrance, so that the Lord can pour out His Spirit upon a languishing church and an impenitent congregation. If Satan had his way, there would never

be another awakening, great or small, to the end of time. But we are not ignorant of his devices. It is possible to resist his power. When the way is prepared for the Spirit of God, the blessing will come. Satan can no more hinder a shower of blessing from descending upon God's people than he can close the windows of heaven that rain cannot come upon the earth."—*Review and Herald*, March 22, 1887.

Waiting for Change

"I was shown God's people waiting for some change to take place,—a compelling power to take hold of them. But they will be disappointed, for they are wrong. They must act; they must take hold of the work themselves, and earnestly cry to God for a true knowledge of themselves." "Pride, self-love, selfishness, avarice, covetousness, love of the world, hatred, suspicion, jealousy, evil surmisings, must all be subdued and sacrificed forever. When Christ shall appear, it will not be to correct these evils, and then give a moral fitness for His coming. This preparation must all be made before He comes. It should be a subject of thought, of study, and earnest inquiry, What shall we do to be saved? What shall be our conduct that we may show ourselves approved unto God?"—*Testimonies*, Vol. I, pp. 261, 705.

Daily Consecration

"Consecrate yourself to God in the morning; make this your very first work. Let your prayer be, 'Take me, O Lord, as wholly Thine. I lay all my plans at Thy feet. Use me today in Thy service. Abide with me, and let all my work be wrought in Thee.' This is a daily matter. Each morning consecrate yourself to God for that day. Surrender all your plans to Him, to be carried out or given up as His providence shall indicate. Thus day by day you may be giving your life into the hands of God, and thus your life will be molded more and more after the life of Christ."—*Steps to Christ*, pp. 74, 75.

"However complete may have been our consecration at conversion, it will avail us nothing unless it be renewed daily; but a consecration that embraces the actual present is fresh, genuine, and acceptable to God."—*Review and Herald*, Jan. 6, 1885.

The Seal of God

"Now is the time to prepare. The seal of God will never be placed upon the forehead of an impure man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of the ambitious, world-loving

man or woman. It will never be placed upon the forehead of men or women of false tongues or deceitful hearts. All who receive the seal must be without spot before God—candidates for heaven.”—*“Testimonies,” Vol. V, p. 216.*

“Not one of us will ever receive the seal of God while our characters have one spot or stain upon them. It is left with us to remedy the defects in our characters, to cleanse the soul temple of every defilement. Then the latter rain will fall upon us as the early rain fell upon the disciples on the day of Pentecost.”—*Id., p. 214.*

Our Own Course of Action

“The day of God’s vengeance is just upon us. The seal of God will be placed upon the foreheads of those only who sigh and cry for the abominations done in the land. Those who link in sympathy with the world are eating and drinking with the drunken, and will surely be destroyed with the workers of iniquity. ‘The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.’ Our own course of action will determine whether we shall receive the seal of the living God, or be cut down by the destroying weapons. Already a few drops of God’s wrath have fallen upon the earth; but when the seven last plagues shall be poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation, then it will be forever too late to repent and find shelter. No atoning blood will then wash away the stains of sin.”—*Id., p. 212.*

The Place of the Will in Christian Experience

“Many are inquiring, ‘How am I to make the surrender of myself to God?’ You desire to give yourself to Him, but you are weak in moral power, in slavery to doubt, and controlled by the habits of your life of sin. Your promises and resolutions are like ropes of sand. You cannot control your thoughts, your impulses, your affections. The knowledge of your broken promises and forfeited pledges weakens your confidence in your own sincerity, and causes you to feel that God cannot accept you; but you need not despair.

“What you need to understand is the true force of the will. This is the governing power in the nature of man, the power of decision, or of choice. Everything depends on the right action of the will. The power of choice God has given to men; it is theirs to exercise. You cannot change your heart, you cannot of yourself give to God its affections; but you can *choose* to serve Him. You can give Him your will; He will then work in you to will and to do according to His good pleasure. Thus your whole nature will be brought under

the control of the Spirit of Christ; your affections will be centered upon Him, your thoughts will be in harmony with Him.”—“*Steps to Christ*,” pp. 51, 52.

Sentinels Restraining the Winds

“The restraining Spirit of God is even now being withdrawn from the world. Hurricanes, storms, tempests, fire and flood, disasters by sea and land, follow each other in quick succession. Science seeks to explain all these. The signs thickening around us, telling of the near approach of the Son of God, are attributed to any other than the true cause. Men cannot discern the sentinel angels restraining the four winds that they shall not blow until the servants of God are sealed; but when God shall bid His angels loose the winds, there will be such a scene of strife as no pen can picture.”—“*Testimonies*,” Vol. VI, p. 408.

Trials Lead to Unity

“As trials thicken around us, both separation and unity will be seen in our ranks. Some who are now ready to take up weapons of warfare, will in times of real peril make it manifest that they have not built upon the solid rock; they will yield to temptation. Those who have had great light and precious privileges, but have not improved them, will, under one pretext or another, go out from us. Not having received the love of the truth, they will be taken in the delusions of the enemy; they will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, and will depart from the faith. But, on the other hand, when the storm of persecution really breaks upon us, the true sheep will hear the true Shepherd’s voice. Self-denying efforts will be put forth to save the lost, and many who have strayed from the fold will come back to follow the great Shepherd. The people of God will draw together, and present to the enemy a united front. In view of the common peril, strife for supremacy will cease; there will be no disputing as to who shall be accounted greatest. No one of the true believers will say, ‘I am of Paul, or I of Apollos, or I of Cephas.’ The testimony of one and all will be, ‘I cleave unto Christ; I rejoice in Him as my personal Saviour.’

“Thus will the truth be brought into practical life, and thus will be answered the prayer of Christ, uttered just before His humiliation and death, ‘That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me.’ John 17:21. The love of Christ, the love of our brethren, will testify to the world that we have been with Jesus and learned of Him. Then will the message

of the third angel swell to a loud cry, and the whole earth will be lightened with the glory of the Lord."—*Id.*, pp. 400, 401.

God's Judgments a Call to Repentance

"The time is at hand when there will be sorrow in the world that no human balm can heal. The Spirit of God is being withdrawn. Disasters by sea and by land follow one another in quick succession. How frequently we hear of earthquakes and tornadoes, of destruction by fire and flood, with great loss of life and property! Apparently these calamities are capricious outbreaks of disorganized, unregulated forces of nature, wholly beyond the control of man; but in them all, God's purpose may be read. They are among the agencies by which He seeks to arouse men and women to a sense of their danger."—"*Prophets and Kings*," p. 277.

Warmth From Others' Coldness

"Already the judgments of God are abroad in the land, as seen in storms, in floods, in tempests, in earthquakes, in peril by land and by sea. The great I AM is speaking to those who make void His law. When God's wrath is poured out upon the earth, who will then be able to stand? Now is the time for God's people to show themselves true to principle. When the religion of Christ is most held in contempt, when His law is most despised, then should our zeal be the warmest and our courage and firmness the most unflinching. To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few,—this will be our test. At this time we must gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, and loyalty from their treason."—"*Testimonies*," Vol. V, p. 136.

More Prayer and Less Talk

"In the place of those who have the light of truth allowing jealousy and evil surmisings to come in and weaken their love and union one with another, their united prayers should ascend to heaven for the Lord to arise, and put an end to the violence and abuse which are practiced in our world. More prayer and less talk is what God desires, and it would make His people a tower of strength."—*Review and Herald*, June 15, 1897.

Satan Cannot Read Our Thoughts

"The adversary of souls is not permitted to read the thoughts of men; but he is a keen observer, and he marks the words; he takes account of actions, and skillfully adapts his temptations to meet

the cases of those who place themselves in his power. If we would labor to repress sinful thoughts and feelings, giving them no expression in words or actions, Satan would be defeated; for he could not prepare his specious temptations to meet the case."—*Id.*, *March 22, 1887.*

Angels About Us

"Could men see with heavenly vision, they would behold companies of angels that excel in strength stationed about those who have kept the word of Christ's patience. With sympathizing tenderness, angels have witnessed their distress, and have heard their prayers. They are waiting the word of their Commander to snatch them from their peril. But they must wait yet a little longer. The people of God must drink of the cup, and be baptized with the baptism. The very delay, so painful to them, is the best answer to their petitions. As they endeavor to wait trustingly for the Lord to work, they are led to exercise faith, hope, and patience, which have been too little exercised during their religious experience."—*"The Great Controversy," pp. 630, 631.*

Utter No Word of Doubt

"In times of trial we must cling to God and His promises. Some have said to me, 'Do you not get discouraged at times when you are under trial?' And I have answered, 'Yes, if by discouragement you mean sad or cast down.' 'Didn't you talk to any one of your feelings?' 'No; there is a time for silence, a time to keep the tongue as with a bridle, and I was determined to utter no word of doubt or darkness, to bring no shade of gloom upon those with whom I was associated. I have said to myself, I will bear the Refiner's fire; I shall not be consumed. When I speak, it shall be of light; it shall be of faith and hope in God; it shall be of righteousness, of goodness, of the love of Christ my Saviour; it shall be to direct the minds of others toward heaven and heavenly things, to Christ's work in heaven for us, and our work upon earth for Him.'"—*Review and Herald, Feb. 11, 1890.*

Obeys Without Regard to Feeling

"It is the privilege of every one to say, 'I will carry out my Captain's orders to the very letter, feeling or no feeling. I will not wait for a happy sensation, for a mysterious impulse. I will say, What are my orders? What is the line of my duty? What says the Master to me? Is the line of communication open between God and my soul?'"

What is my position before God? Just as soon as we come into right relations to God, we shall understand our duty and do it; and we shall not think the good things we do entitle us to salvation."—*Id.*, April 9, 1889.

Spirit of Prayer

"When this reformation begins, the spirit of prayer will actuate every believer, and will banish from the church the spirit of discord and strife. Those who have not been living in Christian fellowship will draw close to one another. . . . The barriers separating believer from believer will be broken down, and God's servants will speak the same things."—*"Testimonies," Vol. VIII, p. 251.*

Wonderful Revivals

"Wonderful revivals will follow. Sinners will be converted, and many souls will be added to the church. When we bring our hearts into unity with Christ, and our lives into harmony with His work, the Spirit that fell on the disciples on the day of Pentecost will fall on us."—*"Testimonies," Vol. VIII, p. 246.*

Disposal of Property

"Houses and lands will be of no use to the saints in the time of trouble, for they will then have to flee before infuriated mobs, and at that time their possessions cannot be disposed of to advance the cause of present truth. I was shown that it is the will of God that the saints should cut loose from every incumbrance before the time of trouble comes, and make a covenant with God through sacrifice. If they have their property on the altar, and earnestly inquire of God for duty, He will teach them when to dispose of these things. Then they will be free in the time of trouble, and have no clogs to weigh them down.

"I saw that if any held on to their property, and did not inquire of the Lord as to their duty, He would not make duty known, and they would be permitted to keep their property, and in the time of trouble it would come up before them like a mountain to crush them, and they would try to dispose of it, but would not be able. I heard some mourn like this: 'The cause was languishing, God's people were starving for the truth, and we made no effort to supply the lack; now our property is useless. O that we had let it go, and laid up treasure in heaven!' . . . I also saw that God had not required all His people to dispose of their property at the same time, but if they desired to be taught, He would teach them, in a time of need, when to sell and how much to sell."—*"Early Writings," pp. 56, 57.*

Build Up Faith Now

"Those who exercise but little faith now, are in the greatest danger of falling under the power of satanic delusions and the decree to compel the conscience. And even if they endure the test, they will be plunged into deeper distress and anguish in the time of trouble because they have never made it a habit to trust in God. The lessons of faith which they have neglected, they will be forced to learn under a terrible pressure of discouragement."—*"The Great Controversy,"* p. 622.

Revival of Primitive Godliness

"Before the final visitation of God's judgments upon the earth, there will be, among the people of the Lord, such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children. . . . The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work; and before the time for such a movement shall come, he will endeavor to prevent it, by introducing a counterfeit. In those churches which he can bring under his deceptive power, he will make it appear that God's special blessing is poured out; there will be manifest what is thought to be great religious interest. Multitudes will exult that God is working marvelously for them, when the work is that of another spirit. Under a religious guise, Satan will seek to extend his influence over the Christian world."—*Id.*, p. 464.

Pray for Divine Enlightenment

"There is now need of earnest working men and women who will seek for the salvation of souls; for Satan as a powerful general has taken the field, and in this last remnant of time he is working through all conceivable methods to close the door against light that God would have come to His people. He is sweeping the whole world into his ranks, and the few who are faithful to God's requirements are the only ones who can ever withstand him, and even these he is trying to overcome. . . . Go to God for yourselves, pray for divine enlightenment, that you may know that you do know what is truth, that when the wonderful miracle-working power of Satan shall be displayed, and the enemy shall come as an angel of light, you may distinguish between the genuine work of God and the imitative work of the powers of darkness."—*Review and Herald Extra*, Dec. 24, 1889.

Clothed With Christ's Righteousness

"There is a work to be done for this time in fitting a people to stand in the day of trouble, and all must act their part in this work.

They must be clothed with the righteousness of Christ, and be so fortified by the truth that the delusions of Satan shall not be accepted by them as genuine manifestations of the power of God. Years have been lost, but will you now awake?"—*Ibid.*

Training Our Youth

"Let the education and training of the members of our churches be such that the children and youth among us shall understand there are to be no concessions to this power, the man of sin."—*General Conference Bulletin, 1891, p. 258.*

"The principles necessary for our youth to cultivate, must be kept before them in their daily education, that when the decree shall go forth requiring all to worship the beast and his image, they may make the right decisions, and have strength to declare, without wavering, their confidence in the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, even at the very time when the law of God is made void by the religious world. Those who waver now, and are tempted to follow in the wake of apostates who have departed from the faith, 'giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils,' will surely be found on the side of those who make void the law of God, unless they repent, and plant their feet firmly upon the faith once delivered to the saints."—"Testimonies," Vol. V, p. 525.

Appeal to Parents

"Parents, ask yourselves the solemn question, 'Have we educated our children to yield to paternal authority, and thus trained them to obey God, to love Him, to hold His law as the supreme guide of conduct and life? Have we educated them to be missionaries for Christ? to go about doing good?' Believing parents, your children will have to fight decisive battles for the Lord in the day of conflict. . . .

"The tender mercies of this power will be displayed in prison cells and dungeons. Already preparations are advancing, and movements are in progress, which will result in making an image to the beast. Events will be brought about in the earth's history that will fulfill the predictions of prophecy for these last days. . . . Coming events are casting their shadows upon our pathway. . . . Are we preparing ourselves and our households to understand the position of our adversaries, and their modes of warfare? Are our children forming habits of decision, that they may be firm and unyielding in every matter of principle and duty? I pray that we all may understand the signs of the times, and that we may so prepare ourselves

and our children that in the time of conflict God may be our refuge and defense."—*Review and Herald, April 23, 1889.*

The Part of Ministers

"The solemn time has come when ministers should be weeping between the porch and the altar, crying, 'Spare Thy people, O Lord, and give not Thine heritage to reproach.' It is a day when, instead of lifting up their souls in self-sufficiency, ministers and people should be confessing their sins before God and one another."—*Id., Extra, Dec. 24, 1889.*

Christ Coming Unexpectedly

"The day of God is rapidly approaching. Its footsteps are so muffled that it does not arouse the world from the deathlike slumber into which it has fallen. While the watchmen cry, 'Peace and safety,' 'sudden destruction' cometh upon them, and they shall not escape; 'for as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.' It overtakes the pleasure lover and the sinful man as a thief in the night. When all is apparently secure, and men retire to contented rest, then the prowling, stealthy, midnight thief steals upon his prey. When it is too late to prevent the evil, it is discovered that some door or window was not secured. 'Be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.' People are now settling to rest, imagining themselves secure under the popular churches; but let all beware, lest there be a place left open for the enemy to gain an entrance.

"Great pains should be taken to keep this subject before the people. The solemn fact is to be kept not only before the people of the world, but before our own churches also, that the day of the Lord will come suddenly, unexpectedly. The fearful warning of the prophecy is addressed to every soul. Let no one feel that he is secure from the danger of being surprised. Let no one's interpretation of prophecy rob you of the conviction of the knowledge of events which show that this great event is near at hand."—"*Special Testimonies on Education,*" pp. 107, 108.

More Than Human Wisdom

"The word of God plainly declares that His law is to be scorned, trampled upon, by the world; there will be an extraordinary prevalence of iniquity. The professed Protestant world will form a confederacy with the man of sin, and the church and the world will be in corrupt harmony.

"Here the great crisis is coming upon the world. The Scriptures teach that popery is to regain its lost supremacy, and that the fires of persecution will be rekindled through the timeserving concessions of the so-called Protestant world. In this time of peril we can stand only as we have the truth and the power of God. Men can know the truth only by being themselves partakers of the divine nature. We have need now for more than human wisdom in reading and searching the Scriptures; and if we come to God's word with humble hearts, He will raise up a standard for us against the lawless element."—*General Conference Bulletin, 1891, p. 257.*

Stray Offshoots

"God has a church upon the earth, who are His chosen people, who keep His commandments. He is leading, not stray offshoots, not one here and one there, but a people."—"Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers," p. 61.

The Highest of All Gifts

"In describing to His disciples the office work of the Holy Spirit, Jesus sought to inspire them with the joy and hope that inspired His own heart. He rejoiced because of the abundant help He had provided for His church. The Holy Spirit was the highest of all gifts that He could solicit from His Father for the exaltation of His people. The Spirit was to be given as a regenerating agent, and without this the sacrifice of Christ would have been of no avail. The power of evil had been strengthening for centuries, and the submission of men to this satanic captivity was amazing. Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the third person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power. It is the Spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world's Redeemer."—"The Desire of Ages," p. 671.

THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL

THE one hope of the world in the closing days of earth's history, as through all the centuries of the past, will be the everlasting gospel. Thrilling indeed is the thought that the controversy begun between God and Satan in heaven itself six thousand years ago, is to be brought to its conclusion in this generation, and those who read these words are to be participants in the final conflict. Every one will be enrolled under the banner of Prince Immanuel or under the leadership of the enemy of all righteousness. There will be no neutrals. The proclamation of this message is represented by angels flying in the midst of heaven.

"I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: and the smoke of their torment ascendeth up forever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

"Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them. And I looked, and behold a

white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle." Rev. 14:6-14.

This is the message which has been given to Seventh-day Adventists,—given to sanctify their own hearts and lives and prepare them for the coming of the Lord, and given to them that they may give it to others. Thus they are made ambassadors for Christ, heralds of the cross to earth's remotest bounds. Recreant indeed will they be to this sacred trust if they fail to perform this solemn duty; rather, if they fail to rise to this high privilege accorded them of being colaborers with Christ the Lord.

Church Giving Last Message

"The third angel of Revelation fourteen is represented as flying swiftly through the midst of heaven, crying, 'Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.' Here is shown the nature of the work of the people of God. They have a message of so great importance that they are represented as flying in the presentation of it to the world. They are holding in their hands the bread of life for a famishing world. The love of Christ constraineth them. This is the last message. There are no more to follow, no more invitations of mercy to be given after this message shall have done its work. What a trust! What a responsibility is resting upon all to carry the words of gracious invitation! 'And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.'"—*"Testimonies," Vol. V, pp. 206, 207.*

Criminal Neglect

"The crisis is now upon us. The battle is to be waged between the Christianity of the Bible and the Christianity of human tradition. Is there not a criminal neglect in our present sleepy condition? There must be a decided advance movement among us. We must show to the world that we recognize, in the events that are now taking place in connection with the National Reform movement, the fulfillment of prophecy."—*Review and Herald, Jan. 1, 1889.*

Give Trumpet a Certain Sound

"The watchmen have been asleep, but may God grant that they may not sleep the sleep of death. Let all who are standing upon the walls of Zion give the trumpet a certain sound. It is a solemn

time for God's people, but if they stand close by the bleeding side of Jesus, He will be their defense. He will open ways that the message of light may come to great men, to authors and lawmakers. They will have opportunities of which you do not dream, and some of them will boldly advocate the claims of God's downtrodden law."—*Id., Extra, Dec. 24, 1889.*

Not to Sit With Folded Hands

"Shall we sit with folded hands, and do nothing in this crisis? . . . God help us to arouse from the stupor that has hung over us for years! There are more souls to be saved, and a far greater work to be done in warning our world, than has yet been accomplished. . . . It seems that the breaking loose of the four winds is about to take place."—*Id., Dec. 18, 1888.*

Not to Be Silent

"Let not the commandment-keeping people of God be silent at this time, as though we gracefully accepted the situation. There is the prospect before us of waging a continuous war, at the risk of imprisonment, of losing property, and even life itself, to defend the law of God, which is being made void by the laws of men. This Bible text will be quoted to us, 'Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. . . . The powers that be are ordained of God.'"—*Id., Jan. 1, 1889.*

"The question is asked, Shall we not obey the powers that be? Yes, when they are in harmony with the higher powers that be."—*Id., April 15, 1890.*

Watchmen to Lift Up Their Voice

"While the Protestant world is, by her attitude, making concessions to Rome, we should arouse to comprehend the situation, and view the contest before us in its true bearings. While men have slept, Satan has been stealthily sowing the tares. Let the watchmen now lift up their voice like a trumpet, and give the message which is present truth for this time. Let them know where we are in prophetic history, that the spirit of true Protestantism may awaken all the world to a sense of the value of the privileges of religious liberty so long enjoyed."—*Id., Jan. 1, 1889.*

Avert Threatened Danger

"It is our duty to do all in our power to avert the threatened danger. We should endeavor to disarm prejudice by placing ourselves in a proper light before the people. We should bring before them the real question at issue, thus interposing the most effectual

protest against measures to restrict liberty of conscience. We should search the Scriptures, and be able to give the reason for our faith. Says the prophet, 'The wicked shall do wickedly, and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.'

"Those who have access to God through Christ have important work before them. Now is the time to lay hold of the arm of our strength. The prayer of David should be the prayer of pastors and laymen: 'It is time for Thee, Lord, to work: for they have made void Thy law.' Let the servants of the Lord weep between the porch and the altar, crying, 'Spare Thy people, O Lord, and give not Thine heritage to reproach.'"—*Testimonies*, Vol. V, p. 452.

Not Sit in Quietude

"We are not doing the will of God if we sit in quietude doing nothing to preserve liberty of conscience. Fervent, effectual prayers should be ascending to heaven that this calamity may be deferred until we can accomplish the work which has so long been neglected. Let there be most earnest prayer; and then let us work in harmony with our prayers. It may appear that Satan is triumphant, and that truth is overborne with falsehood and error. . . . But God would have us recall His dealings with His people in the past, to save them from their enemies. He has always chosen extremities, when there seemed no possible chance for deliverance from Satan's workings, for the manifestation of His power. Man's necessity is God's opportunity."—*Id.*, p. 714.

Opportunity to Men in Authority

"God is going to bring around a condition of things where the good men and the men in authority will have an opportunity to know what is truth indeed, and because the people will not bow the knee to the image, and receive the mark of the beast in the hand or in the forehead, but will stand to the truth because it is truth, there will be oppression and an attempt to compel the conscience."—*Review and Herald*, April 15, 1890.

Church Responsible

"If they do nothing to disabuse the minds of the people, and through ignorance of the truth our legislatures should abjure the principles of Protestantism, and give countenance and support to the Roman fallacy, the spurious sabbath, God will hold His people who have had great light, responsible for their lack of diligence and faithfulness. But if the subject of religious legislation is judiciously and intelligently laid before the people, and they see that through

Sunday enforcement the Roman apostasy would be re-enacted by the Christian world, and that the tyranny of past ages would be repeated, then whatever comes, we shall have done our duty."—*Id., Extra, Dec. 24, 1889.*

Need to Be Aroused

"The people of our land need to be aroused to resist the advances of this most dangerous foe to civil and religious liberty."—"The Spirit of Prophecy," Vol. IV, p. 382.

Testing Truth Brought to the Front

"The wrath of man shall praise Thee,' says the psalmist; 'the remainder of wrath shalt Thou restrain.' God means that testing truth shall be brought to the front, and become a subject of examination and discussion, even if it is through the contempt placed upon it. The minds of the people must be agitated. Every controversy, every reproach, every slander, will be God's means of provoking inquiry, and awakening minds that otherwise would slumber."—"Testimonies," Vol. V, p. 453.

All Capabilities to Advance Message

"A season of great trial is before us. It becomes us now to use all our capabilities and gifts in advancing the work of God. The powers the Lord has given us are to be used to build up, not to tear down. Those who are ignorantly deceived are not to remain in this condition. The Lord says to His messengers, Go to them, and declare unto them what I have said, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear.

"The time is right upon us when persecution will come to those who proclaim the truth. The outlook is not flattering; but, notwithstanding this, let us not give up our efforts to save those ready to perish, for whose ransom the Prince of heaven offered up His precious life. When one means fails, try another. Our efforts must not be dead and lifeless. As long as life is spared, let us work for God. In all ages of the church, God's appointed messengers have exposed themselves to reproach and persecution for the truth's sake. But wherever God's people may be forced to go, even though, like the beloved disciple, they are banished to desert islands, Christ will know where they are, and will strengthen and bless them, filling them with peace and joy.

"Soon there is to be trouble all over the world. It becomes every one to seek to know God. We have no time to delay. With earnestness and fervor the message must be given: 'Ho, every one that

thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.' Isa. 55:1. 'Thus saith the Lord, Keep ye judgment, and do justice: for My salvation is near to come, and My righteousness to be revealed. Blessed is the man that doeth this, and the son of man that layeth hold on it; that keepeth the Sabbath from polluting it, and keepeth his hand from doing any evil.' Isa. 56:1, 2."—*Id.*, Vol. IX, pp. 227, 228.

Unfurling Banner of Truth

"In the name of the Lord we are to go forward, unfurling His banner, advocating His word. When the authorities command us not to do this work; when they forbid us to proclaim the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, then it will be necessary for us to say, as did the apostles: 'Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.' Acts 4: 19, 20.

"The truth is to be set forth in the power of the Holy Spirit. This alone can make our words effective. Only through the Spirit's power will victory be gained and held. The human agent must be worked by the Spirit of God. The workers must be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. They must have divine wisdom, that nothing may be uttered which would stir up men to close our way. Through the inculcation of spiritual truth we are to prepare a people who shall be able, in meekness and fear, to give a reason for their faith before the highest authorities in our world."—*Id.*, Vol. VI, pp. 395, 396.

Lifting Up the Standard

"Some may think that because it has been revealed in prophecy that our nation shall restrict the consciences of men, it must surely come; and that if we make an effort to preserve our liberty, we shall be acting the part of unfaithful servants, and thus come under the condemnation of God. This peril now threatens the people of God; and what are we going to do? Can we not assist in lifting the standard, and in calling to the front those who have a regard for their religious rights and privileges? God calls upon us to awake."—*Review and Herald*, Dec. 18, 1888.

God's Message for Today

"God's message for the inhabitants of earth today is, 'Be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.'

The conditions prevailing in society, and especially in the great cities of the nations, proclaim in thunder tones that the hour of God's judgment is come, and that the end of all things earthly is at hand. We are standing on the threshold of the crisis of the ages. In quick succession the judgments of God will follow one another,—fire, and flood, and earthquake, with war and bloodshed. We are not to be surprised at this time by events both great and decisive; for the angel of mercy cannot remain much longer to shelter the impenitent.”—*“Prophets and Kings,”* p. 278.

Much in Prayer

“It is essential that we be much in prayer to God, that His voice and His power may be manifested in behalf of His people, and that the angels may hold the four winds until the truth is more fully proclaimed and the servants of God are sealed in their foreheads. God is not pleased with the attitude of His people.”—*Review and Herald, Jan. 1, 1889.*

Where Are the Old Standard Bearers?

“The Bible will be opened from house to house, and men and women will find access to these homes, and minds be opened to receive the word of God; and when the crisis comes, many will be prepared to make right decisions, even in the face of the formidable difficulties that will be brought about through the deceptive miracles of Satan. Although these will confess the truth and become workers with Christ at the eleventh hour, they will receive equal wages with those who have wrought through the whole day. There will be an army of steadfast believers who will stand as firm as a rock through the last test.

“But where in that army are those who have been standard bearers? Where are those whose voices have sounded in proclaiming the truth to the sinning? Some of them are not there. We look for them, but in the time of shaking they have been unable to stand, and have passed over to the enemy's ranks. . . . We need now the courage of God's faithful servant [Daniel] of old; not one wavering, uncertain note should come from the watchers' trumpets.”—*Id., Extra, Dec. 24, 1889.*

Work Must Be Done in Terrible Crisis

“The work which the church has failed to do in a time of peace and prosperity, she will have to do in a terrible crisis, under most discouraging, forbidding circumstances. The warnings that worldly conformity has silenced or withheld, must be given under the fiercest

opposition from enemies of the faith. And at that time the superficial, conservative class, whose influence has steadily retarded the progress of the work, will renounce the faith and take their stand with its avowed enemies, toward whom their sympathies have long been tending. These apostates will then manifest the most bitter enmity, doing all in their power to oppress and malign their former brethren, and to excite indignation against them."—"*Testimonies*," Vol. V, p. 463.

Not Alarmists

"Heretofore those who presented the truths of the third angel's message have often been regarded as mere alarmists. Their predictions that religious intolerance would gain control in the United States, that church and state would unite to persecute those who keep the commandments of God, have been pronounced groundless and absurd. It has been confidently declared that this land could never become other than what it has been,—the defender of religious freedom. But as the question of enforcing Sunday observance is widely agitated, the event so long doubted and disbelieved is seen to be approaching, and the third message will produce an effect which it could not have had before."—"*The Great Controversy*," pp. 605, 606.

Restrain Forces of Evil

"God has always wrought for His people in their greatest extremity, when there seemed the least hope that ruin could be averted. The designs of wicked men, the enemies of the church, are subject to His power and overruling providence. He can move upon the hearts of statesmen; the wrath of the turbulent and disaffected, the haters of God, His truth, and His people, can be turned aside, even as the rivers of water are turned, if He orders it thus. Prayer moves the arm of Omnipotence. . . . He will restrain the forces of darkness until the warning is given to the world, and all who will heed it are prepared for the conflict."—"*Testimonies*," Vol. V, pp. 452, 453.

Holding the Four Winds

"The prophet saw 'four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the winds should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.' Another angel ascending from the East, cried to them saying, 'Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.' This points out the work we

now have to do, which is to cry to God for the angels to hold the four winds until missionaries shall be sent to all parts of the world, and shall have proclaimed the warning against disobeying the law of Jehovah.”—*Review and Herald Extra*, Dec. 11, 1888.

Time to Work in Foreign Countries

“Now, just now, is our time to work in foreign countries. As America, the land of religious liberty, shall unite with the Papacy in forcing the consciences of men to honor the false sabbath, the people of every country on the globe will be led to follow her example.”—*General Conference Bulletin*, 1893, p. 16.

Lord Will Use Humble Instruments

“Thus the message of the third angel will be proclaimed. As the time comes for it to be given with greatest power, the Lord will work through humble instruments, leading the minds of those who consecrate themselves to His service. The laborers will be qualified rather by the unction of His Spirit than by the training of literary institutions. Men of faith and prayer will be constrained to go forth with holy zeal, declaring the words which God gives them. The sins of Babylon will be laid open. The fearful results of enforcing the observances of the church by civil authority, the inroads of Spiritualism, the stealthy but rapid progress of the papal power,—all will be unmasked. By these solemn warnings the people will be stirred. Thousands upon thousands will listen who have never heard words like these. In amazement they hear the testimony that Babylon is the church, fallen because of her errors and sins, because of her rejection of the truth sent to her from heaven.”—*The Great Controversy*,” pp. 606, 607.

Preaching Sabbath More Fully

“At the commencement of the time of trouble, we were filled with the Holy Ghost as we went forth and proclaimed the Sabbath more fully. This enraged the churches and nominal Adventists, as they could not refute the Sabbath truth. And at this time God’s chosen all saw clearly that we had the truth, and they came out and endured the persecution with us.”—*Early Writings*,” p. 33.

The Latter Rain

“Many had been bound, some wives by their husbands, and some children by their parents. The honest who had been prevented from hearing the truth, now eagerly laid hold upon it. All fear of their relatives was gone, and the truth alone was exalted to them. They had been hungering and thirsting for truth; it was dearer and more

precious than life. I asked what had made this great change. An angel answered, 'It is the latter rain, the refreshing from the presence of the Lord, the loud cry of the third angel.'—*Id.*, p. 271.

A Great Reformatory Movement

"In visions of the night representations passed before me of a great reformatory movement among God's people. Many were praising God. The sick were healed, and other miracles were wrought. A spirit of intercession was seen, even as was manifested before the great day of Pentecost. Hundreds and thousands were seen visiting families, and opening before them the word of God. Hearts were convicted by the power of the Holy Spirit, and a spirit of genuine conversion was manifest. On every side doors were thrown open to the proclamation of the truth. The world seemed to be lightened with the heavenly influence. Great blessings were received by the true and humble people of God."—*"Testimonies," Vol. IX, p. 126.*

The Loud Cry

"Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers. Satan also works with lying wonders, even bringing down fire from heaven in the sight of men. Thus the inhabitants of the earth will be brought to take their stand.

"The message will be carried not so much by argument as by the deep conviction of the Spirit of God. The arguments have been presented. The seed has been sown, and now it will spring up and bear fruit. The publications distributed by missionary workers have exerted their influence, yet many whose minds were impressed have been prevented from fully comprehending the truth or from yielding obedience. Now the rays of light penetrate everywhere, the truth is seen in its clearness, and the honest children of God sever the bands which have held them. Family connections, church relations, are powerless to stay them now. Truth is more precious than all besides. Notwithstanding the agencies combined against the truth, a large number take their stand upon the Lord's side."—*"The Great Controversy," p. 612.*

Loud Cry to Exceed 1844 Movement

"The angel who unites in the proclamation of the third angel's message, is to lighten the whole earth with his glory. A work of world-wide extent and unwonted power is here foretold. The ad-

vent movement of 1840-44 was a glorious manifestation of the power of God; the first angel's message was carried to every missionary station in the world, and in some countries there was the greatest religious interest which has been witnessed in any land since the Reformation of the sixteenth century; but these are to be exceeded by the mighty movement under the last warning of the third angel." —*Id.*, p. 611.

COMFORT IN TRIAL AND SORROW

THE coming crisis will prove the final test of character to the patient and long-suffering church of Christ. God leads His people through trial to purge them from the dross of sin. He places them in the crucible of affliction the same as the refiner and purifier of silver places the precious metal in the furnace. When the dross is purged away so that the Refiner can see a perfect reflection of Himself, He knows the work has been accomplished. Mal. 3:1-4. When the great Refiner of character sees in His children the reflection of His own righteousness, He knows that the fires of trial and persecution have accomplished their work. He bruises, that He may bind up again and lead us nearer to His side. He wounds, that He may heal, and thus draw us closer to His own loving heart. He comforts us, that we may be the means in His hands of carrying the comfort of His grace to those in similar trial and affliction. 2 Cor. 1:3, 4.

Magnitude of the Time of Trouble

"The 'time of trouble such as never was,' is soon to open upon us; and we shall need an experience which we do not now possess, and which many are too indolent to obtain. It is often the case that trouble is greater in anticipation than in reality; but this is not true of the crisis before us. The most vivid presentation cannot reach the magnitude of the ordeal. In that time of trial, every soul must stand for himself before God. 'Though Noah, Daniel, and Job' were in the land, 'as I live, saith the Lord God, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver their own souls by their righteousness.' Eze. 14:20."—*"The Great Controversy,"* pp. 622, 623.

Brought Before Councils

"It does not seem possible to us now that any should have to stand alone; but if God has ever spoken by me, the time will come when we shall be brought before councils and before thousands for His name's sake, and each one will have to give the reason of his faith. Then will come the severest criticism upon every position that has been taken for the truth. We need, then, to study the word

of God, that we may know why we believe the doctrines we advocate. We must critically search the living oracles of Jehovah."—*Review and Herald*, Dec. 18, 1888.

Sifted by Fiery Trials

"In the absence of persecution, there have drifted into our ranks some who appear sound, and their Christianity unquestionable, but who, if persecution should arise, would go out from us. In the crisis, they would see force in the specious reasoning that has had an influence on their minds. Satan has prepared various snares to meet varied minds.

"When the law of God is made void, the church will be sifted by fiery trials, and a larger proportion than we now anticipate, will give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. Instead of being strengthened when brought into strait places, many prove that they are not living branches of the True Vine; they bore no fruit, and the Husbandman taketh them away."—*General Conference Bulletin*, 1891, p. 257.

Kept in Temptation's Hour

"Though God's people will be surrounded by enemies who are bent upon their destruction, yet the anguish which they suffer is not a dread of persecution for the truth's sake; they fear that every sin has not been repented of, and that through some fault in themselves they will fail to realize the fulfillment of the Saviour's promise, 'I will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world.' Rev. 3:10. If they could have the assurance of pardon, they would not shrink from torture or death; but should they prove unworthy, and lose their lives because of their own defects of character, then God's holy name would be reproached."—*The Great Controversy*, p. 619.

Enter Into Thy Chambers

"In the day of fierce trial, He will say, 'Come, My people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee; hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.' What are the chambers in which they are to hide? They are the protection of Christ and holy angels.

"The people of God are not at this time all in one place. They are in different companies, and in all parts of the earth, and they will be tried singly, not in groups. Every one must stand the test for himself."—*Historical Sketches*, p. 158.

Angels in Human Councils

"Though the rulers of this world know it not, yet often in their councils angels have been spokesmen. Human eyes have looked upon them; human ears have listened to their appeals; human lips have opposed their suggestions and ridiculed their counsels; human hands have met them with insult and abuse. In the council hall and the court of justice, these heavenly messengers have shown an intimate acquaintance with human history; they have proved themselves better able to plead the cause of the oppressed than were their ablest and most eloquent defenders. They have defeated purposes and arrested evils that would have greatly retarded the work of God, and would have caused great suffering to His people. In the hour of peril and distress, 'the angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them.' Ps. 34:7."—*"The Great Controversy,"* p. 632.

Trials Originated by Satan

"Trials will come upon us that are originated by the prince of evil. The enemy will contend for the life or the usefulness of the servants of God, and will seek to mar their peace as long as they remain in the world. But his power is limited. He may cause the furnace to be heated, but Jesus and holy angels watch the precious ore; and to the trusting Christian, grace will be found sufficient, and nothing but the worthless dross will be consumed. The fire kindled by the enemy can have no power to destroy the true gold."—*Review and Herald, April 10, 1894.*

Trials God's Workmen

"Our sorrows do not spring out of the ground. God 'doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men.' When He permits trials and afflictions, it is 'for our profit, that we might be partakers of His holiness.' If received in faith, the trial that seems so bitter and hard to bear will prove a blessing. The cruel blow that blights the joys of earth will be the means of turning our eyes to heaven. How many there are who would never have known Jesus had not sorrow led them to seek comfort in Him!

"The trials of life are God's workmen, to remove the impurities and roughness from our character. Their hewing, squaring, and chiseling, their burnishing and polishing, is a painful process, it is hard to be pressed down to the grinding wheel. But the stone is brought forth prepared to fill its place in the heavenly temple. Upon no useless material does the Master bestow such careful, thorough work. Only His precious stones are polished after the similitude of a palace."—*"Mount of Blessing,"* pp. 23, 24.

Life's Discipline

"Life is disciplinary. While in the world, the Christian will meet with adverse influences. There will be provocations to test the temper; and it is by meeting these in a right spirit that the Christian graces are developed. If injuries and insults are meekly borne, if insulting words are responded to by gentle answers, and oppressive acts by kindness, this is evidence that the Spirit of Christ dwells in the heart, that sap from the Living Vine is flowing to the branches. We are in the school of Christ in this life, where we are to learn to be meek and lowly of heart; and in the day of final accounts we shall see that all the obstacles we meet, all the hardships and annoyances that we are called to bear, are practical lessons in the application of principles of Christian life. If well endured, they develop the Christlike in the character, and distinguish the Christian from the worldling."—*Testimonies*, Vol. V, p. 344.

God Will Not Forget

"Will the Lord forget His people in this trying hour? Did He forget faithful Noah when judgments were visited upon the antediluvian world? Did He forget Lot when the fire came down from heaven to consume the cities of the plain? Did He forget Joseph surrounded by idolaters in Egypt? Did He forget Elijah when the oath of Jezebel threatened him with the fate of the prophets of Baal? Did he forget Jeremiah in the dark and dismal pit of his prison house? Did He forget the three worthies in the fiery furnace? or Daniel in the den of lions?"—*The Great Controversy*, p. 626.

Meeting Obstacles

"Obstacles to the advancement of the work of God will appear; but fear not. To the omnipotence of the King of kings, our covenant-keeping God unites the gentleness and care of a tender shepherd. Nothing can stand in His way. His power is absolute, and it is the pledge of the sure fulfillment of His promises to His people. He can remove all obstructions to the advancement of His work. He has means for the removal of every difficulty, that those who serve Him and respect the means He employs may be delivered. His goodness and love are infinite, and His covenant is unalterable. The plans of the enemies of His work may seem to be firm and well established, but He can overthrow the strongest of these plans, and in His own time and way He will do this, when He sees that our faith has been sufficiently tested, and that we are drawing near to Him, and making Him our counselor."—*Testimonies*, Vol. VIII, p. 10.

God Will Change the Most Hopeless Outlook

"Turn to the Lord, ye prisoners of hope. Seek strength from God, the living God. Show an unwavering, humble faith in His power and His willingness to save. From Christ is flowing the living stream of salvation. He is the fountain of life, the source of all power. When in faith we take hold of His strength, He will change, wonderfully change, the most hopeless, discouraging outlook. He will do this for the glory of His name. God calls upon His faithful ones, who believe in Him, to talk courage to those who are unbelieving and hopeless. May the Lord help us to help one another, and to prove Him by living faith."—*Id.*, p. 12.

Fulfill Highest Expectations

"In the darkest days, when appearances seem so forbidding, fear not. Have faith in God. He is working out His will, doing all things well in behalf of His people. The strength of those who love and serve Him will be renewed day by day. His understanding will be placed at their service, that they may not err in the carrying out of His purposes. There is to be no despondency in God's service. Our faith is to endure the pressure brought to bear upon it. God is able and willing to bestow upon His servants all the strength they need. He will more than fulfill the highest expectations of those who put their trust in Him. He will give them the wisdom that their varied necessities demand."—*Id.*, pp. 10, 11.

God Leads as We Would Choose

"God never leads His children otherwise than they would choose to be led, if they could see the end from the beginning, and discern the glory of the purpose which they are fulfilling as coworkers with Him. Not Enoch, who was translated to heaven, not Elijah, who ascended in a chariot of fire, was greater or more honored than John the Baptist, who perished alone in the dungeon. 'Unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake.' Phil. 1:29. And of all the gifts that Heaven can bestow upon men, fellowship with Christ in His sufferings is the most weighty trust and the highest honor."—*"The Desire of Ages,"* p. 225.

Song in Affliction

"God . . . has a song to teach us, and when we have learned it amid the deep shadows of affliction, we can sing it ever afterward."—*Review and Herald*, Nov. 25, 1884.

Church Object of Supreme Regard

"I testify to my brethren and sisters that the church of Christ, enfeebled and defective as it may be, is the only object on earth on which He bestows His supreme regard. . . .

"Consider, my brethren and sisters, that the Lord has a people, a chosen people, His church, to be His own, His own fortress, which He holds in a sin-stricken, revolted world! and He intended that no authority should be known in it, no laws be acknowledged by it, but His own. . . .

"The Lord Jesus is making experiments on human hearts through the exhibition of His mercy and abundant grace. He is effecting transformations so amazing that Satan, with all his triumphant boasting, with all his confederacy of evil united against God and the laws of His government, stands viewing them as a fortress impregnable to his sophistries and delusions. They are to him an incomprehensible mystery. The angels of God, seraphim and cherubim, the powers commissioned to co-operate with human agencies, look on with astonishment and joy, that fallen men, once children of wrath, are through the training of Christ developing characters after the divine similitude, to be sons and daughters of God, to act an important part in the occupations and pleasures of heaven."

—"*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*," pp. 15-18.

GOD'S PEOPLE DELIVERED

THE church of Christ has passed safely through the crisis of the last days. They have fought a good fight, they have finished their course, they have kept the faith; and now the gracious Deliverer, the Saviour and Friend in whom they have trusted and who has been their comfort and support in all their trials and sufferings, comes to bestow upon them the reward of everlasting life. The apostle John sees this victorious company standing upon Mount Zion, singing the song of deliverance:

"I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him a hundred forty and four thousand, having His Father's name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: and they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the first fruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God." Rev. 14:1-5.

God's Eye Upon His People

"The assaults of Satan are fierce and determined, his delusions are terrible; but the Lord's eye is upon His people, and His ear listens to their cries. Their affliction is great, the flames of the furnace seem about to consume them; but the Refiner will bring them forth as gold tried in the fire. God's love for His children during the period of their severest trial, is as strong and tender as in the days of their sunniest prosperity; but it is needful for them to be placed in the furnace of fire; their earthliness must be consumed, that the image of God may be perfectly reflected."—*"The Great Controversy,"* p. 621.

God Works in Extremities

"It may appear that Satan is triumphant, and that truth is overborne with falsehood and error. . . . But God would have us recall His dealings with His people in the past, to save them from their enemies. He has always chosen extremities, when there seemed no possible chance for deliverance from Satan's workings, for the manifestation of His power. Man's necessity is God's opportunity." —*"Testimonies," Vol. V, p. 714.*

Translated Without Seeing Death

"God would be honored by making a covenant with those who had kept His law, in the sight of the heathen round about them; and Jesus would be honored by translating, without their seeing death, the faithful, waiting ones who had so long expected Him." —*"Early Writings," p. 283.*

The Death Decree

"I saw the leading men of the earth consulting together, and Satan and his angels busy around them. I saw a writing, copies of which were scattered in different parts of the land, giving orders that unless the saints should yield their peculiar faith, give up the Sabbath, and observe the first day of the week, the people were at liberty, after a certain time, to put them to death." —*Id., pp. 282, 283.*

Wicked Cannot Destroy Saints

"I saw that the people of God, who had faithfully warned the world of His coming wrath, would be delivered. God would not suffer the wicked to destroy those who were expecting translation, and who would not bow to the decree of the beast or receive his mark. I saw that if the wicked were permitted to slay the saints, Satan and all his evil host, and all who hate God, would be gratified. And, oh, what a triumph it would be for his satanic majesty, to have power, in the last closing struggle, over those who had so long waited to behold Him whom they loved! Those who have mocked at the idea of the saints' going up will witness the care of God for His people, and behold their glorious deliverance." —*Id., p. 284.*

God Will Interpose

"When the protection of human laws shall be withdrawn from those who honor the law of God, there will be, in different lands, a simultaneous movement for their destruction. As the time appointed in the decree draws near, the people will conspire to root out the hated sect. It will be determined to strike in one night a decisive blow, which shall utterly silence the voice of dissent and reproof.

"The people of God—some in prison cells, some hidden in solitary retreats in the forests and the mountains—still plead for divine

protection, while in every quarter companies of armed men, urged on by hosts of evil angels, are preparing for the work of death. It is now, in the hour of utmost extremity, that the God of Israel will interpose for the deliverance of His chosen. Saith the Lord: 'Ye shall have a song, as in the night when a holy solemnity is kept; and gladness of heart, as when one goeth . . . to come into the mountain of Jehovah, to the Mighty One of Israel. And the Lord shall cause His glorious voice to be heard, and shall show the lighting down of His arm, with the indignation of His anger, and with the flame of a devouring fire, with scattering, and tempest, and hailstones.' Isa. 30:29, 30.

"With shouts of triumph, jeering, and imprecation, throngs of evil men are about to rush upon their prey, when, lo, a dense blackness, deeper than the darkness of the night, falls upon the earth. Then a rainbow, shining with the glory from the throne of God, spans the heavens, and seems to encircle each praying company. The angry multitudes are suddenly arrested. Their mocking cries die away. The objects of their murderous rage are forgotten. With fearful forebodings they gaze upon the symbol of God's covenant, and long to be shielded from its overpowering brightness.

"Look Up"

"By the people of God a voice, clear and melodious, is heard, saying, 'Look up,' and lifting their eyes to the heavens, they behold the bow of promise. The black, angry clouds that covered the firmament are parted, and like Stephen they look up steadfastly into heaven, and see the glory of God, and the Son of man seated upon His throne. In His divine form they discern the marks of His humiliation; and from His lips they hear the request, presented before His Father and the holy angels, 'I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am.' John 17:24. Again a voice, musical and triumphant, is heard, saying: 'They come! they come! holy, harmless, and undefiled. They have kept the word of My patience; they shall walk among the angels;' and the pale, quivering lips of those who have held fast their faith, utter a shout of victory.

"It is at midnight that God manifests His power for the deliverance of His people. The sun appears, shining in its strength. Signs and wonders follow in quick succession. The wicked look with terror and amazement upon the scene, while the righteous behold with solemn joy the tokens of their deliverance. Everything in nature seems turned out of its course. The streams cease to flow. Dark, heavy clouds come up, and clash against each other. In the midst

of the angry heavens is one clear space of indescribable glory, whence comes the voice of God like the sound of many waters, saying, 'It is done.' Rev. 16:17."—*"The Great Controversy," pp. 635, 636.*

Speaks Hope and Joy

"Through a rift in the clouds, there beams a star whose brilliancy is increased fourfold in contrast with the darkness. It speaks hope and joy to the faithful, but severity and wrath to the transgressors of God's law. Those who have sacrificed all for Christ are now secure, hidden as in the secret of the Lord's pavilion. They have been tested, and before the world and the despisers of truth they have evinced their fidelity to Him who died for them. A marvelous change has come over those who have held fast their integrity in the very face of death. They have been suddenly delivered from the dark and terrible tyranny of men transformed to demons. Their faces, so lately pale, anxious, and haggard, are now aglow with wonder, faith, and love. Their voices rise in triumphant song: 'God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof.' Ps. 46:1-3."—*Id., pp. 638, 639.*

"The voice of God is heard from heaven, declaring the day and hour of Jesus' coming, and delivering the everlasting covenant to His people. Like peals of loudest thunder, His words roll through the earth. The Israel of God stand listening, with their eyes fixed upward. Their countenances are lighted up with His glory, and shine as did the face of Moses when he came down from Sinai. The wicked cannot look upon them. And when the blessing is pronounced on those who have honored God by keeping His Sabbath holy, there is a mighty shout of victory.

"Soon there appears in the east a small black cloud, about half the size of a man's hand. It is the cloud which surrounds the Saviour, and which seems in the distance to be shrouded in darkness. The people of God know this to be the sign of the Son of man."—*Id., p. 640.*

The Resurrection

"Amid the reeling of the earth, the flash of lightning, and the roar of thunder, the voice of the Son of God calls forth the sleeping saints. He looks upon the graves of the righteous, then raising His hands to heaven He cries, 'Awake, awake, awake, ye that sleep in the dust, and arise!' Throughout the length and breadth of the earth, the dead shall hear that voice; and they that hear shall live.

And the whole earth shall ring with the tread of the exceeding great army of every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. From the prison house of death they come, clothed with immortal glory, crying, 'O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?' 1 Cor. 15:55. And the living righteous and the risen saints unite their voices in a long, glad shout of victory."—*Id.*, p. 644.

"The living righteous are changed 'in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye.' At the voice of God they were glorified; now they are made immortal, and with the risen saints are caught up to meet their Lord in the air. Angels 'gather together the elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.' Little children are borne by holy angels to their mothers' arms. Friends long separated by death are united, nevermore to part, and with songs of gladness ascend together to the city of God."—*Id.*, p. 645.

Victors at Last

"The heirs of God have come from garrets, from hovels, from dungeons, from scaffolds, from mountains, from deserts, from the caves of the earth, from the caverns of the sea. On earth they were 'destitute, afflicted, tormented.' Millions went down to the grave loaded with infamy, because they steadfastly refused to yield to the deceptive claims of Satan. By human tribunals they were adjudged the vilest of criminals. But now 'God is judge Himself.' Ps. 50:6. Now the decisions of earth are reversed. 'The rebuke of His people shall He take away.' Isa. 25:8. 'They shall call them, The holy people, The redeemed of the Lord.' He hath appointed 'to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.' Isa. 62:12; 61:3. They are no longer feeble, afflicted, scattered, and oppressed. Henceforth they are to be ever with the Lord.

"They stand before the throne clad in richer robes than the most honored of the earth have ever worn. They are crowned with diadems more glorious than were ever placed upon the brow of earthly monarchs. The days of pain and weeping are forever ended. The King of glory has wiped the tears from all faces; every cause of grief has been removed. Amid the waving of palm branches they pour forth a song of praise, clear, sweet, and harmonious; every voice takes up the strain, until the anthem swells through the vaults of heaven, 'Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.' And all the inhabitants of heaven respond in the ascription, 'Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God forever and ever.' Rev. 7:10, 12."—*Id.*, pp. 650, 651.

THE GOODLY LAND

CHRIST has gathered His children from the four corners of the earth. From the east and west and north and south, from every nation under heaven, from the last generation and from the countless dead of all the centuries, they come to dwell forever with Christ the Lord. Picturing their glorious heritage, the revelator declares:

"I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Rev. 21:1-4.

And to this testimony of the beloved disciple we may add this picture presented by the prophet Isaiah:

"The ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." Isa. 35:10.

The Glories of the Immortal State

"Now the church is militant. Now we are confronted with a world in midnight darkness, almost wholly given over to idolatry. But the day is coming in which the battle will have been fought, the victory won. The will of God is to be done on earth as it is done in heaven. Then the nations will own no other law than the law of heaven. All will be a happy, united family, clothed with the garments of praise and thanksgiving,—the robe of Christ's righteousness. All nature, in its surpassing loveliness, will offer to God a constant tribute of praise and adoration. The world will be bathed in the light of heaven. The years will move on in gladness. The light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be sevenfold greater than it is now. Over the scene

the morning stars will sing together, and the sons of God will shout for joy, while God and Christ will unite in proclaiming, "There shall be no more sin, neither shall there be any more death.'"—*"Testimonies," Vol. VIII, p. 42.*

Uriah Smith, an early pioneer connected with the second advent movement, gives us a pen picture of this glorious and blessed estate. His words are well worth reading in this connection:

"The goodly land! I can hardly forbear, before I close, casting a glance forward to that heavenly inheritance which is the objective point of all our struggles, our toils, and our desires. I see there a land which stands in a wonderful contrast to this. As the hymn says,

'Oh! how unlike the present world,
Will be the one to come!'

"I see fields smiling in living green, trees majestic in their wealth of verdure, flowers dazzling with their rainbow hues, and on neither field nor tree nor flower do I see the touch of frost or the pale hand of decay. I see no footprints of the curse, no scars of sin. I see no pestilence walking in darkness, nor destruction wasting at noon-day. I see no forms distorted with pain, nor brows furrowed with anxiety and care. I see no mournful shafts telling where weary forms and sad and broken hearts have gone down into dust and darkness. I see no painful messages passing over that land, as two days ago we received one here, telling that a friend, a brother, a fellow laborer, had fallen beneath the cruel stroke of a relentless foe. I see no darkened room where the tide of a precious life is ebbing slowly away. I see no bosoms heaving with anguish, no badges of mourning, no funeral trains, no yawning, insatiate grave.

"But on the other hand, I see a glorious company who bear bright palms of victory over death and the grave. I see, as one of our hymns says, that

'The glory of God, like a molten sea,
Bathes the immortal company.'

"I see every eye sparkling with the fullness of the joy that reigns within. I see on every cheek the bloom of eternal youth and everlasting health. I see every limb lithe and strong. I see the lame man leaping as a hart. I see the blind gazing with rapture on the celestial glory. I see the deaf listening enchanted to the heavenly melody. I see the dumb joining with loud voice in the anthems of praise. I see the mother clasping to her bosom the chil-

dren she had lost awhile in the land of the enemy, but now recovered forever. I see long-parted friends meet in eternal reunion. I see a river so pure and clear, so charged with every element of refreshment and life, that it is called 'the river of life.' I see a tree over-arching all, so healing in its leaves, so vivifying in its fruits, that it is called 'the tree of life.'

"I see a great white throne in whose effulgence there is no need of moon or sun to give us light. I hear a voice saying to that victorious company, 'This is your rest forever, and you shall no more be acquainted with grief; for there shall be no more pain or death, and sorrow and mourning have forever fled away.' And in all the universe I then see no trace of sin or suffering, but I hear from every world and from every creature, a joyous anthem, like the sound of many waters, going up to God; and they say, 'Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb forever and ever.'

"Such is the goodly land we may go up and possess. Such is the land that awaits every laborer who is faithful to the end. The Spirit and the Bride say, Come; and whosoever will, may come. If any here have not yet turned their feet Zionward, let me say, 'Come with us, and we will do thee good.'"